
LIFE STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FRANCISCO PIZARRO

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LIFE STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FRANCISCO PIZARRO

LIFE STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Translated from the German by

GEORGE P. UPTON

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LIFE STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FRANCISCO PIZARRO

*Translated from the German of
Joachim Heinrich Campe*

BY

GEORGE P. UPTON

Translator of "Memories," "Immensee," etc.

WITH THREE ILLUSTRATIONS



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Translator's Preface

IN the first part of this trilogy of American discovery we followed Columbus as he crossed the then unknown ocean, believing he was sailing to the East Indies, and observed his discovery of the American continent and his explorations in the West Indies and that vicinity; in the second, we followed Cortes as he left Cuba and observed his founding of the city of Vera Cruz and his conquest of Mexico; in the third, we have followed Pizarro on his expedition southward from Panama and observed his conquest of Peru, his founding of the city of Lima, his cruel murder of Atahualpa, the faithful Inca, and of Almagro, his fellow explorer, and finally his own murder by Almagro's followers. These are the three great American explorers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and, of the three, Columbus was incomparably the noblest. Incidentally also to these volumes we have been made acquainted with the important discoveries of Balboa, De Soto, Ponce de Leon, and others. The redeeming qualities of Pizarro were his courage, indomitable will, and loyalty to his sovereign, by virtue of which the illiterate swineherd made his

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

name known in history. But these qualities were dimmed by his cruelty, his greed, his treachery, his dishonesty, and his murders. His execution of Atahualpa, the Inca, and of Almagro, his old associate in many dangers, are two of the blackest crimes in history. Brilliant and daring as he was in carrying out his purposes, and important as his discoveries and conquests proved to be, it is impossible to admire his character or to pity his tragic fate at the hands of conspirators avenging Almagro's death.

G. P. U.

CHICAGO, July, 1911

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Francisco Pizarro

Chapter I

Ojeda, Nicuesa, and Balboa at the Isthmus of Panama

THE mainland of America was discovered by Columbus even before Cortes undertook the conquest of Mexico. He sailed several miles along the shore, seeking a passage to the western ocean, contended with extraordinary obstacles at the mouth of the Orinoco River, and traversed the northern coast of South America, but, after encountering great dangers and disasters, was forced to return without accomplishing the desired result. After his death one explorer after another continued the work of discovery on the mainland, which he had begun. Two of these, Ojeda and Nicuesa,¹ in the year 1509 reached the Isthmus of Darien, when the one founded the city of Nombre de Dios ("Name of God") and the other, San Sebastian.

¹ Alonso de Ojeda was born in Cuenca in 1468. He went to Española with Columbus in 1493, and was also associated with Vespucci in his exploration of the coasts of Venezuela and Guiana. He died at Santo Domingo in 1514.

Diego de Nicuesa was born at Baeza in 1465 and died in 1511. He went to Española in 1502 and conquered the region of Central America from the Gulf of Darien to Cape Gracias á Dios.

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The natives of this coast were warlike and, as they probably suspected the real intentions of these white strangers, they courageously resisted them. They were excellent archers and specially formidable as they used poisoned arrows. The slightest wound caused by them was fatal. Many of Ojeda's men were killed and at last he was obliged to send to Hispaniola for reinforcements. The natives of the region occupied by Ojeda had some customs and practices which did not prevail in the other newly discovered countries. For instance, it was observed that various men and women of the lower class lacked one of their fingers, and when asked how this happened, they replied that the custom of the country required every husband at the death of his wife and every wife at the death of her husband to mutilate themselves in this manner. Another cruel practice prevailed among them. Whenever a widow died they buried with her those of her children who were of tender age and unable to care for themselves, because no one would assume the responsibility of taking care of them. They considered it merciful for it saved these unfortunate children from slowly perishing by starvation.

On board the vessel conveying relief to Ojeda there was a notable person, Vasco Nuñez de Balboa,¹ a man of great ability and still greater courage.

¹ Balboa was born at Xeres de los Caballeros in 1475, and in 1513 discovered the Pacific Ocean. He was beheaded by order of Pedrarias, governor of Darien, upon the charge of instigating a revolt.

OJEDA, NICUESA, BALBOA

He had been guilty of some crime at Hispaniola which exposed him to the penalty of death.¹ To escape this danger he concealed himself in a cask and was carried on board. The captain, who had stringent orders not to take criminals from the island, was not aware of the contents of the cask, but after they were several days out Balboa emerged from his hiding-place. The captain cursed him and threatened to leave him on the first desolate island they reached, but the entire ship's company interceded in his behalf and finally induced the captain to protect him. So Balboa reached Darien. It was not long before he distinguished himself by his ability and courage. Acting upon his advice, they took possession of a region on the Gulf of Uraba and laid out a town which was named Santa Maria de la Antigua del Darien. Balboa's influence grew stronger day by day and at last he was made their governor and at once busied himself with plans to strengthen his authority by discovery and conquest.

With this object in view he conducted expeditions into the adjacent country, formed alliances with some of the neighboring caciques, and forced others into submission. Among these there was one by the name of Comogre who hospitably received Balboa and his companions. His oldest

¹ Other authorities state that his large indebtedness had made him odious to the people, and that this was the reason for his flight.

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son, who was a smart, cunning youth, observed the eagerness of the Spaniards to discover gold and brought a large quantity of the metal, which was useless to him, as a gift for them. As he noticed them weighing the gold for distribution, he angrily sprang forward, knocked the scales over, and, throwing the gold upon the ground, exclaimed: "You are wrong to squabble over such a trifling amount. If you are so crazy to get gold that you will forsake your fatherland and disturb the quiet of a peace-loving people to find it, I will tell you of a country where there is more of the useless stuff than you will ever care for." These words of the young Indian proved a spark which kindled the covetousness of the gold-loving Spaniards into flame. When asked where this country was he replied it was a vast powerful empire in the south, "but," added the youth, "it will be useless for you to go there with your small numbers for the ruler of that empire is a powerful sovereign who will surely drive you away if you dare to appear there with your little force."

This was the first information concerning the great Peruvian Empire that, unfortunately for its people, came to the ears of the Spaniards. The explorers were certainly too weak to avail themselves of it, but their greed was now fully aroused. Balboa sent a vessel for the purpose of securing strong reinforcements from Hispaniola and encouraging the authorities by a hint of what he had learned. But Providence ordained that the storm threatening the

OJEDA, NICUESA, BALBOA

Peruvians should be withheld for some time. The vessel which Balboa despatched to Hispaniola was wrecked on the shores of Yucatan. The crew escaped to land but fell into the hands of the natives, who sacrificed them to their deities. Only two of them escaped. One of them was that Aguilas who subsequently was found by Cortes and taken away with him.

Balboa waited in vain for the return of the vessel and his perplexity was increased by news from Spain that his enemies, by charging him with various offences, had succeeded in prejudicing the Court against him, and that he would soon be called to account, but reverses only strengthened his determination. He knew that the only way to justify himself and to recover his lost favor at Court was to avail himself of the information furnished by Comogre's son. From his description, the country must be richer than any which hitherto had had the misfortune of being the victim of European greed. But his colony was still weak and his entire little fighting force in wretched condition. Should he venture with a handful of poorly armed, half-starved adventurers to invade a powerful empire which would resist him with a mighty army? He determined to do it, resolutely closed his eyes to all the dangers which threatened him, and inspired his covetous associates with like determination by the hope of securing exhaustless treasure.

His entire force numbered only one hundred and

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sixty men and several packs of hounds which were used in battles with the poor naked savages at that time — a wretched outfit for the attainment of the results Balboa had the audacity to attempt. Comogre's son kept his word and acted as guide for the Spaniards.

Chapter II

Balboa Discovers the Pacific Ocean

ALTHOUGH golden Peru was the final destination of Balboa, he had another object in view which seemed to him hardly less important. The young Comogre assured him that toward mid-day, and at a distance of six suns, as he expressed it, meaning a six days' journey, he would reach a great ocean, which was one of the boundaries of that golden land he had promised to show the Spaniards. Balboa correctly reasoned that this was the ocean Columbus had vainly sought and by which, taking a westward direction, the East Indies could be reached. The prospect of making a discovery which that great man had failed to make appeared to him of itself sufficient compensation for any hardships or disappointments he might suffer.

The march to the ocean was one of extraordinary difficulty because of the nature of the Isthmus of Darien which is intersected by a lofty ridge of mountains, known as the Cordilleras de los Andes ("the Chains of the Andes"). These mountains are covered with such dense forests that men of less endurance than our adventurers could never have made their way through them. The valleys between

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them are either deep, impenetrable morasses, or are entirely submerged, for in that wet region it rains almost incessantly two-thirds of the year. This wet, swampy area is also infested with vermin of every description, which made the journey almost intolerable. There are snakes, toads, vipers, and lizards almost without number. The trunks and limbs of trees are covered with swarms of ants and noxious reptiles. The air is darkened with gnats, flies, and other insects of a nauseous kind whose sting is as painful as that of the wasp or hornet. Furious torrents rush down the mountain sides, requiring great courage and endurance to wade or swim them. The damp, sticky atmosphere is full of poisonous vapors which enervate all who breathe them and not infrequently cause dangerous diseases.

Balboa possessed the courage necessary for such an undertaking and was also encouraged upon his way, for they shortly reached the country of a cacique with whom a friendly alliance had been previously made. From there they advanced toward the mountainous territory of another Indian chief, who at first took to flight but came back when he learned the real intentions of the Spaniards, bringing all the gold he could collect with which to purchase their friendship. At last he reached the mountains, the most arduous part of his march. Hearing of the approach of the rapacious strangers, a powerful cacique collected a strong force to resist them. In the meantime the Spaniards continued

BALBOA'S DISCOVERY

their advance without being disturbed in the least at the sight of such a powerful host. Thereupon some Indians approached and asked them why they had come and also advised them not to go any farther. But they paid no attention either to their question or their advice, and kept steadily on. The cacique himself shortly appeared at the head of his naked warriors and gave the signal for battle. They advanced upon the Spaniards, uttering horrible war-cries, but had hardly come within gunshot when Balboa gave the order to fire. The report of the musketry and the headlong fall of some of their men created a panic, and they incontinently fled, believing that their enemy was armed with the thunder and lightning. Some of the poor fugitives were overtaken and slain, and many of those who escaped the sword were killed by the hounds. The cacique himself was among the dead, and his city, if a collection of wretched hovels huddled together can be called a city, surrendered without resistance. It was looted, and the gold which fell into the Spaniards' hands amply recompensed them for all they had endured on the march and strengthened their courage for the remainder of it.

Balboa left at this place those who were prostrated by the unhealthiness of the region and resumed his advance with the remainder of his little army. Incredible difficulties and dangers confronted them, but their bodies seemed made of iron and their hearts of steel. Patiently and steadfastly they

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endured all hardships, — hunger and thirst, heat and cold, — and all the other troubles of a route which hardly seemed passable for wild beasts. Wherever danger appeared, Balboa was the first to meet it. He bore toil and deprivation as if he were a common soldier and his example inspired his men to follow him without a murmur, though the longed-for end of their hardships seemed farther away each day.

Twenty-five days had now elapsed and yet the distance they had travelled was not more than a pedestrian ordinarily could achieve in a few days. At last they reached the foot of a mountain, from which, according to the young Comogre, the unknown ocean was visible. At this spot Balboa ordered a halt and climbed alone to the summit so that the honor of the discovery should belong solely to him. When he reached it, he saw the ocean, fell upon his knees, and raised his hands to heaven in delight. His men understood these movements and rushed up the mountain to participate in his joy over the important discovery.

The vast expanse of water lay before them. All knelt and thanked God for this great boon to their fatherland and the undying fame it promised for them. Their Indian attendants looked on in utter astonishment, unable to comprehend the rapture of the white men. Their surprise was even greater when they witnessed the strange ceremonies with which Balboa took possession in the name of his King. He erected a great stone mound, sur-

BALBOA'S DISCOVERY

mounted it with the cross, and cut the name of Ferdinand in the bark of several trees. This took place in the year 1513, five years before Cortes sailed for the conquest of Mexico. As soon as the ceremonies on the mountain were concluded, all hastened to the shore. Balboa went into the water waist deep, with his sword drawn, and said to the Spaniards and Indians, standing on the beach: "I call you to witness that I take possession of this ocean, and all countries bordering upon it, for the crown of Spain, and at the same time to witness my oath that I will defend its sovereignty with my sword against all enemies."

The spot upon which this farce (for it hardly deserves to be called by any other name) took place was an inlet in the great Bay of Panama which extends to the mainland of South America. Balboa named the inlet St. Michaelis. After he had induced some of the neighboring caciques by favor and forced others by the sword to furnish him subsistence and gold, he decided to explore the inlet in Indian boats to get accurate information about the islands and the entire coast. The Indians advised him not to do it, for the rainy season was about to begin. He paid no heed to their warning, however, but, selecting eighty of his own men and several of the natives, began navigating in wretchedly made canoes the waters discovered by him. They had not proceeded far before he regretted his rashness, for a fearful storm suddenly arose and the ocean waves ran so

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high that the lives of all were in danger. The Indians were greatly terrified and yet did not remain inactive, for they sprang into the water and fastened the boats together in pairs and in this way prevented them from capsizing. At last, after almost incredible exertions, they succeeded in reaching a rocky island, where they landed and fastened the canoes as securely as they could. Their joy at finding this shelter, however, was short-lived, for at high tide the entire island was flooded and they had to pass a part of the night standing in the water, dreading lest the tide should rise still higher and sweep them away. When daylight came they found the situation still more alarming, for some of their canoes were destroyed, others were badly damaged, and the rest were filled with sand and water. Fortunately, however, for them, there were some trees on the island from which they stripped the bark. Mixing this with weeds, they filled up the holes and cracks in those of the canoes which were not utterly ruined. In these fragile and overladen craft they intrusted themselves again to the sea, the Indians swimming in advance of them, and fortunately at last reached the shore. Their troubles, however, were not yet over. Hunger forced them to enter the country of a cacique who, according to the Indians, had an abundance of provisions, and there they encountered a multitude of the natives, who attempted to drive them away. The famished Spaniards and their fierce hounds, however, attacked them so furiously

BALBOA'S DISCOVERY

that the weak Indians could not offer successful resistance. A great number of them were killed, the cacique himself was wounded, and the rest took to flight.

After this bloody struggle both sides were ready for peace. The cacique sent his son with provisions and splendid gifts of gold and pearls, at the sight of which the Spaniards forgot all their troubles. Not long after this the cacique came in person and, observing how eager the Spaniards were for gold and pearls, informed them that they would find both in great quantities upon an island not over five miles away, as well as in the countries to the south of it. He advised them in the meantime to wait for the close of the rainy season before going there. Great as was their eagerness for gold, the recollection of all they had recently endured made them willing to delay the search for it. They unanimously requested their leader to return to the settlement and, as most of them were sick or worn out, Balboa was obliged to consent. As he had already acquired sufficient information about the country through which they came, he returned by another route not less rough and impassable, in which they encountered indescribable difficulties and had to fight almost continuously with savage tribes. At last they reached Santa Maria, well-nigh exhausted, in January, 1514. Among those who accompanied Balboa on this memorable expedition no one was more conspicuous for courage

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and endurance than a certain Pizarro, who now appears for the first time upon the stage where he is soon to play a leading part.

Balboa, now realizing it was a matter of the highest importance, sent messengers to Spain to inform the King of the discovery of the Pacific and to deliver to him his share of the gorgeous spoils, hoping thereby to induce him to despatch strong reinforcements so that the conquest of the great and rich Peruvian Empire could be effected. His report was received with great delight. The possibility of a western route to the East Indies seemed to be settled at last. But, strangely enough, the same suspicion and jealousy which this King had displayed toward the original discoverer of the New World was displayed toward Balboa. He decided that the expedition should be made, but he also decided to send another man to Santa Maria to take Balboa's place as governor.

Chapter III

Pedrarias Appointed Governor of Darien — Balboa Beheaded — The Governor Founds the City of Panama

PEDRARIAS DE AVILA ¹ was commissioned to depose Balboa and assume the governorship of Darien. He was a man of high birth and fine appearance, but his qualities of heart did not correspond with his exterior, for he was ignoble and full of base trickery. He was an illustration of the truth that high birth and nobility of soul do not always go together. A fleet of fifteen large vessels and an army of twelve hundred men were assigned to accomplish the great conquest which Balboa had begun, and fifteen hundred Spanish noblemen embarked with him to participate in the important undertaking. Such lavish royal expenditure had not been previously known.

As soon as this powerful fleet sailed into the Bay of Darien, Pedrarias sent an officer ashore to inform Balboa of his removal and the arrival of the new governor. They expected to find the hero of such glorious deeds living in splendor and also that he

¹ Pedrarias, or Pedro Arias de Avila, was born in Spain in 1442, and died in Nicaragua in 1531. After superseding Balboa, and executing him upon the charge of disloyalty, he founded Panama (1517) and was subsequently appointed governor of Nicaragua.

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would resist the King's orders and maintain his position with the sword, but they were wrong in both these suppositions. The officer was amazed to find this man, of whose wealth they had formed such grand conceptions, clad in a coarse, woollen cloak, shabby breeches, and bark shoes, and engaged with several Indians in covering wretched huts with reeds. He could hardly believe his own eyes that this was the valiant, world-famous Balboa. He was soon convinced, however, as he observed the magnanimity with which he bore the injustice of his King. Great as was Balboa's surprise at this unexpected ingratitude, and strongly as he might have been induced to defend his position with his brave soldiers, whose numbers had been increased to four hundred, it never occurred to him to requite injustice with disloyalty. He immediately declared that he and his whole colony would submit to the royal mandate.

His haughty successor came ashore. Balboa met him respectfully and assured him of his obedience to any orders which he as governor might see fit to issue. Pedrarias at once showed that he considered this assurance no empty compliment by taking the treasure which Balboa had collected with so much exertion and at such danger to his life, upon the pretext that Balboa had usurped the governorship and that this was his penalty. Balboa was furious with indignation at seeing the reward for his great service bestowed upon one unworthy of it, but he

BALBOA BEHEADED

had sufficient strength of soul to bear such injustice with patience. Pedrarias had arrived during the rainy season when the atmosphere of that region is filled with poisonous exhalations. His followers soon experienced the effects of the climate, which was dangerous even to the natives. They perished by hundreds and the survivors were in a pitiable condition because of the lack of provisions. Every one was dissatisfied at finding his hopes disappointed and a universal appeal was made to the governor for immediate return to the fatherland. He adopted a plan to quiet them which had unfortunate results both for the young colony and the whole unhappy region. He allowed his people to invade the country at their own will, partly to seek for provisions, partly to extort gold, — a permission of which they availed themselves with intemperate eagerness. They swarmed over the whole country, even to distant provinces, plundered the huts of the natives and treated them inhumanly. Even those with whom Balboa had made alliances were not spared and the result was that all Europeans were detested by the natives and considered no better by them than beasts of prey.

Balboa watched with great distress the approaching downfall of his colony, the ruin of the natives, and the frustration of all the far-reaching plans over which he had brooded day and night. He could bear all else, but this seemed insupportable. He took the risk, therefore, of sending to the King a

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detailed report of Pedrarias' foolish actions, and as his accusations bore the stamp of truth, Ferdinand could not help believing them. He now realized that he had acted inconsiderately in allowing one of his most active and able servants to be supplanted by a courtier who was utterly inexperienced in business of this kind. To correct his mistake as far as possible, he appointed Balboa deputy-governor of all the countries bordering on the South Sea, and at the same time instructed Pedrarias to assist him in his undertakings and to do nothing himself without first consulting with him. This was a fresh cause for jealousy and enmity on Pedrarias' part. He could not do otherwise than obey the royal mandate, but his indignation increased all the more because he had to conceal it.

Balboa had hardly received his new commission before he forgot all that had occurred and devoted himself to preparations for the great expedition he had so long considered, whereby he hoped to secure the Spanish crown in possession of the golden empire of Peru. After incredible difficulties he succeeded in building four small vessels and recruiting three hundred soldiers, and with these he was ready to embark for the conquest of the greatest empire of the New World. But just as he was about to leave, a messenger came from Pedrarias, requesting him to delay his departure for a short time as he desired to have an interview with him at a certain place which he named. Balboa, who had not the least

BALBOA BEHEADED

suspicion of his intentions, acceded to his request. He went to the designated spot, but hardly arrived there before the insidious Pedrarias caused him to be seized and fettered. Balboa knew not what it meant, but soon discovered. Pedrarias, whose small jealous soul yearned for the blood of this man who had completely eclipsed him, charged him with treasonable designs against his King and governor, brought him to trial, and pronounced the death sentence. The whole colony and the judges themselves, who had been his cats' paws, implored the brute to spare a life which was of such great importance to the King, but it was in vain. Balboa was taken out and publicly beheaded. The King was notified of the cruel deed by people and reports selected and made by Pedrarias, so that the murderer not only went unpunished but even remained in his position as governor. The event had one good result, however, for it delayed the subjection of the Peruvians several years. As Pedrarias himself was too cowardly to undertake it, and every brave man was deterred from it by Balboa's fate, the expedition, for which everything was in readiness, was abandoned, and operations were confined to the plundering and persecution of the Indians on the isthmus.

The extremely unhealthy condition of the colony and his desire to do something which might make him famous induced Pedrarias to ask permission to establish the colony in another spot on the west side of the isthmus near the shore of the South

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Sea. This being granted, he laid the foundations of a city which ultimately became an important trade centre. He built the city of Panama, but not where the city now stands. The old city was attacked, plundered, and burned by the buccaneer Morgan. When it was decided to rebuild, a more convenient spot was selected at the mouth of a river which the Spaniards called the "Great River" (Rio Grande). There the Panama of to-day stands.

Chapter IV

The Partnership of Pizarro, Almagro, and Luque — Pizarro's Youth — Dangers on the Southern Voyage

PEDRARIAS was busy for a year, partly with the construction of his city and partly with the subjection of the unfortunate natives who inhabited the long narrow area between the northern and southern oceans. Balboa's plan for the conquest of Peru was laid aside in the meantime. Early in the year 1524, six years after the beginning of the Mexican conquest, it was at last undertaken by Pizarro. Among those who had settled with Pedrarias at Panama were three remarkable men. One was Francisco Pizarro; the second, Diego de Almagro; the third, Hernando de Luque, who was a priest and had acquired considerable wealth at Santa Maria.¹

Pizarro was the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a woman of the lower class in Truxillo, a city in Estremadura, Spain, and was born in the year 1471. His ignoble father paid no attention to the training of the boy. His shameless

¹Diego de Almagro was born about 1475 and was executed by Pizarro's orders in 1538. He first went to Panama with Pedrarias and followed Pizarro to Peru in 1531. Luque was not only a priest but an ambitious adventurer.

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mother had no education herself and therefore could impart none to her son. Pizarro therefore grew up like a weed. He had no instruction, no inducement to be good. His daily occupation in his youth was that of swine-herd. It is not remarkable, therefore, that he was destitute of those feelings of compassion and affection which can only be inspired by careful cultivation in youth. In the meantime there was something in him which rebelled against his degrading task, and incited him to strive for higher things, although he had not learned to read or write. Before any one was aware, he left his hogs in their pens and became a soldier. But even then his ambitious spirit felt itself circumscribed and he longed for a wider sphere of action. He had served but a few years before he was attracted by the great drama being enacted in the New World, and, like all the other restless spirits of the time, he was not satisfied until he took a part in it. Under Balboa's leadership he exhibited such distinction in every dangerous situation that he was deemed worthy of being invested with a command, notwithstanding his illiteracy. In that position he discovered that nothing but brains, courage, and activity in the performance of his duties could help him rise from his debasement, and determined to turn his appointment to his advantage at every opportunity. He succeeded. The swine-herd became a man, born, as it seemed, to rule over others and play one of the greatest roles of his time.

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Almagro's birth and training were not unlike those of Pizarro. He too was a foundling and in his early years became a soldier. He too had an ambition to do great things, and, like Pizarro, sailed to America. He resembled Pizarro in strength of body and spirit, in courage, steadfastness, and unwearied activity, but surpassed him in magnanimity, honesty, and honor, virtues which Pizarro did not possess. The latter gained his ends too often not by foresight but by treachery, not by ability but by dissimulation and deceit.

Hernando de Luque occupied the position of an under parson in Panama and school-master at the church in Darien. He seems to have been a man of unusual sagacity and knowledge of the world. By his great success as administrator of the public funds he had come to exercise a strong influence in the little community.

Such were the trio associated together for the undoing of the poor Peruvians. It was agreed that each of the three should contribute to the expedition to the extent of his ability, and, as Pizarro could furnish the least, he should undertake the most difficult and dangerous task, namely, the command of the little force. Almagro engaged to supply reinforcements from time to time and the necessary supplies of provisions and war material. Finally the priest, who was well versed in all the tricks of a mediator, was to remain in Panama to keep the governor in good temper and

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to look after other duties, including the handling of the funds.

After receiving the governor's permission Luque and his associates went to the church and celebrated mass, and, after other ceremonies, the three were ready for their business of robbery and murder in the name of the Prince of Peace. The expedition consisted of a single vessel, conveying one hundred and twelve men. With this small force Pizarro weighed anchor in the middle of May, 1524, and sailed southward. The time of year was the most inauspicious which could have been selected, for it was the rainy season, in which navigators to the south had to encounter adverse winds and dangerous storms along the coast. The explorers, however, did not know that they would have to contend with wind and waves, hunger and thirst, and incessant dangers before they could make any progress on their voyage.

Chapter V

Pizarro's Hardships at the Island of Gorgona — The Southward Voyage Resumed — Arrival at Tumbes

AFTER struggling against contrary winds and rough weather for seventy days Pizarro was still not far from the Pearl Islands, which are in the Bay of Panama, a distance which now can be covered in a few hours. He landed at various places along the coast, but all that he saw and learned was so discouraging that it required all his resolution not to be deterred from his purpose. At one place were dense, impenetrable forests, at another almost impassable morasses, or entirely submerged districts, and everywhere savage, inhospitable natives, determined to drive these uninvited strangers away from their country, as well as scarcity of food, dangers and unforeseen difficulties, and nowhere gold or the luxuries which had been so liberally promised. The lack of provisions was so great that his men often plucked buds and sprouts from the trees to appease their hunger. This and the pestilential influence of the damp climate carried off a large part of the little army and the rest were so exhausted that Pizarro was forced to return to secure the reinforcements which Almagro had promised.

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He sailed at once for Chiama, a place opposite the Pearl Islands, as he was unwilling that the governor should witness his wretched plight. Almagro had obtained seventy recruits and had already sailed to join his partner, but unluckily they missed each other. Supposing that Pizarro had reached the land of gold, he directed his course southward and met with the same difficulties that Pizarro had experienced. Wherever he attempted to make a landing he was fiercely resisted by the natives. In one desperate encounter he had the misfortune to be hit in the eye with an arrow. At last he found it necessary to go back. At the Pearl Islands he discovered where Pizarro had gone and hastened to join him at Chiama. Their joy at meeting compensated them for all their hardships. Instead of abandoning their undertaking they were more than ever determined to pursue it. Fortune this time was more favorable. Notwithstanding fresh hardships and dangers they succeeded in reaching the Bay of Mätthaus on the coast of Quito (or Ecuador). They landed at Stacanus, not far from the mouth of the Smaragden.

What a difference between this region and that which they had previously visited! Quito, the most remote and beautiful district of the Peruvian Empire, is one of the most enchanting countries in the world. Though it lies directly on the equator, it has such a pleasant climate that one might readily believe the fable of the golden ages which tells of the eternal spring. This agreeable climate is caused partly by

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the neighboring lofty Cordilleras, covered with constant ice and snow, and partly by the great southern ocean which washes the shores of this country. Whether the wind comes from one or the other, it is refreshing and moderates the heat. The atmosphere is pure, healthy, and bracing. There are none of those insects which are such a plague in other South American countries. The soil is one of the most fertile in the world. Everything thrives and multiplies. Constant spring or, rather, eternal summer and eternal autumn prevail alike in this paradise. Sprouting seed, ripening vegetation, buds, blossoms, and ripe fruits are found alike at every season of the year.

The sight of this fair land and the appearance of the natives, who were clad in woollen and cotton garments, adorned with all sorts of gold and silver ornaments, convinced the Spaniards that they had reached the goal of their desires, but they were still too worn out with past hardships and illness to venture an advance into the country. After much consideration it was decided that Almagro should return to Panama for further reinforcements, while Pizarro and the rest of his men should withdraw to the little island of Gallo, not far from the mainland, and wait until his friend came back.

Almagro sailed, but, when he reached Panama, discovered that great changes had taken place. Pedrarias had been deposed and one Pedro de los Rios had been appointed his successor. This man, who was

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not in the least enterprising, thought that the plan of the three adventurers was so risky and its accomplishment so uncertain that he would not allow Almagro to secure recruits. He even sent two vessels to fetch Pizarro and all his men back again. The vessels arrived at the island, but Pizarro refused to obey the governor's orders, although the most of his men were ready to abandon an undertaking which had cost the lives of so many of their comrades and themselves so much misery. Pizarro thereupon drew a line in the sand with his sword and ordered all those who intended to abandon him to cross it that he might know how many were loyal to him. "Friends and companions," he exclaimed, "upon this side are hardships, hunger, loss, rain and storm, abandonment and death; upon that side pleasure and comfort. Here lies Peru and its treasures, there lies Panama and its poverty. Each one of you must choose what is befitting for a valiant Castilian. As for me, I am going south." To his great vexation he found the larger part of them going to the other side. Only thirteen Spaniards and a mulatto, a bold fellow, remained on his side of the line. With these fourteen bold and loyal companions he decided to remain, in hopes that good fortune and the enthusiasm of his associates would not leave him in the lurch.

The governor's representative in no way admired the heroism of the determined and courageous Pizarro, but regarded his decision as rank disobedience to

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the order of his superior, and his people as insanely bent upon rushing to their destruction. He refused to leave a vessel to enable them to continue their undertaking, and it was only after much entreaty that he was prevailed upon to leave them a part of his supplies. Notwithstanding this, Pizarro's men abode by their purpose. This little handful, without provisions, clothing, weapons, or knowledge of the country whither they were going, without a vessel to transport them, remained upon that rocky island in the ocean, determined to make a crusade against a powerful empire. As the island seemed too near the mainland for security and as they were suffering from lack of fresh water, Pizarro decided to go to another island which he had previously discovered, called Gorgona, because of its forbidding aspect. He undertook the journey in a boat so frail that they were apprehensive every instant of its destruction. At last he fortunately reached the island and their existence during the first eight days would have driven less resolute men to desperation.

The island of Gorgona, which lies below the fourth degree of north latitude, was one of the most inhospitable and dismal places of sojourn they had yet seen. Its dense, gloomy forests and precipitous mountains added to its cruel appearance. Its climate was extremely unhealthy. The sun was continually hidden by heavy mists. The air was close and poisonous, and air and earth were infested with noxious insects and reptiles. When we consider

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these hardships, the pressing need of the necessities of life, and the well grounded fear that they might never escape, we cannot help admiring the courage of Pizarro and his men in preferring to endure this hopeless situation rather than abandon their project.

Seven long months passed, and no vessel came to their rescue. Their strength and endurance at last were so greatly exhausted that they made the desperate decision to trust their lives to rafts fastened together and to make an effort to reach the mainland. But just as they were ready to set out on their perilous voyage, to their unspeakable delight they beheld a vessel coming to anchor at the island. Their joy was still greater when they found that it had been sent by their friends at Panama, who had managed to secure the governor's permission. One would have imagined that these men, who had suffered so much from their audacity, would have eagerly seized the opportunity to go back to Panama. But no! They were more determined than ever to carry out their purpose. With joyous alacrity they boarded the vessel, which was sent to take them back, and directed its course not to Panama but southeasterly to the coast of Peru.

The destiny of the poor Peruvians was now as good as settled. After a voyage of twenty-eight days Pizarro reached that part of the Peruvian coast where the city of Tumbes lies. He came to anchor in the roadstead, waiting for favorable wind and weather to enter the harbor.

Chapter VI

*Discovery of the Gold Country — The Llamas — Return to
Panama — Pizarro at the Court of Charles the Fifth*

PIZARRO'S vessel had hardly dropped anchor in the roadstead at Tumbes when several Peruvians made their appearance, evidently greatly surprised at the wonderful construction of the floating house as well as at the sight of bearded white men. Suddenly they rowed back to shore, and shortly afterward ten or twelve boats came loaded with all kinds of refreshments as well as liquors in gold and silver vessels, a welcome sight to the Spaniards, who hungered even more for gold than they did for fresh food. The cacique of that region had sent this hospitable greeting to the future persecutors and tyrants of his fatherland, and invited them to come ashore, promising to supply them with everything they needed.

The Spaniards were eager to accept the invitation and secure some of the treasure of the country, but Pizarro was cautious and at first permitted only two, a Spaniard and a negro, to land. When they reached the shore, the Peruvians hardly knew which to wonder at the more, the white European or the black negro. Both were curiosities to them, for

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they themselves were copper-colored. The negro, however, was the greater. They even ventured to wash him to see if the color of his skin would come off. All that the two visitors saw strengthened their belief in the great richness of the country. In the dwellings, where they were hospitably entertained, they beheld numerous gold and silver vessels in common use, and the natives themselves wore ornaments made of the precious metals. Their garments and various skilfully made articles convinced them they had found a nation more advanced than any other Americans they had encountered. The wool of their garments came from the llama, a wool-bearing animal somewhat resembling the sheep, and never before seen by the Spaniards.

The Peruvians call this animal a sheep or camel sheep, also *guanäco*. Its resemblance to the sheep or camel is very slight, however. The only points in common are its wool and long neck. Its head is small and somewhat similar to the head of the horse. It is about four feet tall and from five to six feet long, but its neck constitutes half its length. It is of a reddish color in the wild state, but the tame ones, on the contrary, are white, black, or speckled. It is one of the most useful of animals, not merely for its wool and its flesh, but because it can be used as a pack animal. It can carry a hundred-pound load and climb the highest mountains. Its gait is slow, but its step is very secure. It can travel four or five days continuously, after which it needs

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a day's rest. It is very easy to maintain as all it needs for food is the herbage it finds on the way. It hardly needs drink, the abundance of its saliva serving it instead. It is one of the most gentle and phlegmatic of animals. As long as it keeps its strength, it will endure hunger and toil with the greatest patience, but as soon as it is tired neither urging nor blows can make it move. It is even said that in such case it is so obstinate that it will kill itself by violently beating its head upon the ground. The Peruvians treat these useful animals as their friends. They always make it a festive occasion when young llamas are used for the first time. All the relatives, friends, and acquaintances of the family assemble. The llamas are decorated with garlands and wreaths and their dedication to labor is celebrated by two days of dancing and amusements. From time to time some of the guests run to the stalls, accost the animals with the greatest tenderness, and lavish caresses upon them. It is not until the celebration is over that they are placed in service, but they wear their garlands and wreaths until the decorations are worn out or lost. The Spaniards vainly attempted to introduce llamas in Europe. They died as soon as they arrived, for it is very hot in Spain, and they can live only in the cold atmosphere of the high Cordilleras.

From information which Pizarro received at Tumbes he came to the conclusion that it would be foolish to attempt the subjection of such a power-

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ful people as the Peruvians seemed to be with his little and exhausted force. He also found that it was necessary to delay his operations in order to explore the coast of this country and learn more about its internal conditions. So without further delay he sailed southward. Payta, a seaport situated in latitude $5^{\circ} 12' S.$, was the next place reached by him. The news of his coming had preceded him. It was reported that the Spaniards were bearded white men, who never did anything wrong, never robbed or murdered, but were always kind and gentle and ready to give generously of what they had. O, that Europeans had never shown themselves in any other light than this to the well disposed natives of that part of the world! This favorable report was very advantageous to the Spaniards. Everywhere they landed they were welcomed by the natives and most hospitably treated. The natives took pains to gratify their every wish and were disappointed when they did not remain longer. One sailor was so overcome by the attention of these good people and the agreeableness of the country that he decided to stay there. Finding he was missing, Pizarro searched for him and discovered him in the midst of his Indian friends, who were delighted at his decision to stay with them. They had placed him upon a litter and were going to carry him through the country and exhibit him. As he could not be induced to abandon his purpose they left him there and never heard of him again.

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Finally, still sailing southward, Pizarro reached Santa, where he yielded to the entreaties of his men and began to make preparations to return to Panama, where he hoped to secure a sufficiently strong reinforcement to warrant taking possession of the countries discovered by him.

The Children of the Sun, as they were called by the Peruvians, on account of their white faces, glistening armor, and the thunderbolts they carried, were everywhere received in a friendly manner. At Santa, Pizarro heard of a powerful chief who ruled the country at his palace upon a tableland in the interior, where his capitol was described as a glitter of gold and silver. It appears that, except at Tumbes, the Spaniards had not found much of the precious metal among the coast natives. Some historians assert that they were not eager for gold or else by Pizarro's order concealed their eagerness. He was not willing they should appear so and actually declined gifts when they were offered to him. It is evident the natives made little outward display of it except in the adornment of their temples and other sacred buildings, which the Spaniards did not venture to disturb.

Upon his return to Panama Pizarro touched at various places where he had landed before, and at Tumbes some of his men expressed the wish to remain, as the people were very friendly. He acceded to their request, reasoning that when he came back again these men would have become familiar with

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the language and customs of the natives. He also took some of the Peruvians on board his vessels to instruct them in Castilian, and one of them, whom the Spaniards named Felipillo, played an important part in the subsequent conquest of Peru. After an absence of eighteen months Pizarro again dropped anchor in the harbor of Panama. He brought with him samples of the most valuable products of the regions he had visited, consisting of gold and silver vessels, woollen and cotton fabrics, and some llamas. He flattered himself that De los Rios, the governor, would be so greatly impressed with his report of the extraordinary wealth of the country and by the sight of its proofs that he would assist him in fitting out a new expedition, but he was disappointed. The governor, who was a very cautious man, thought it unreasonable to weaken his own not over strong colony by making uncertain explorations. He probably foresaw that the bold men who were to risk the undertaking would soon seek to free themselves from his authority. He declared he was not willing to build up other regions at the expense of his own, and that he would not sacrifice more lives for wretched gold and silver gewgaws and Indian sheep. He refused to lend any assistance, which caused the three partners not a little embarrassment, for their own resources were exhausted as well as their credit, but not their enthusiasm nor their determination. As they now realized that no other course was left them but to apply to the Spanish

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Court, it was decided that Pizarro should go to Spain and obtain the authority of the King. After great exertions the three raised sufficient money to pay the expense of the voyage.

In the Spring of 1528 Pizarro sailed from Panama, taking with him some of the natives, two or three llamas, several finely made fabrics, and many gold and silver ornaments and vessels as proofs of the richness of the country. He appeared at the Court of Charles the Fifth, the ruler of Spain at that time, with a dignity of manner which surprised those who were acquainted with his low origin. He related his own and his comrades' hardships, described the riches of the country, and submitted the proofs he had brought with him. Charles and his ministers listened in amazement to his story. Pizarro was overwhelmed with congratulations and was at once invested with absolute authority to attempt the conquest. Pizarro improved the occasion upon the spot by asking not only the position of viceroy but also the captain-generalship of the whole region, although he had promised to secure the latter position for his friend Almagro. The latter was appointed commander of the fortress at Tumbes with a fixed yearly salary. Father Luque was rewarded for his services by the bishopric of Tumbes and was appointed guardian of the Peruvian Indians, with a yearly salary of a thousand ducats. In consideration Pizarro agreed to fit out the expedition at his own expense and promised to raise a force

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of two hundred and fifty men. But small as it was Pizarro found great difficulty in equipping the expedition from his own means. Fortunately, however, Cortes was in Spain seeking the favor of his sovereign. As he admired all adventurous spirits and had been a war comrade of Pizarro on his Mexican expedition, he advanced him sufficient from his own means to cover half the cost of equipment. Having raised half the required number of men, Pizarro secretly stole out of the harbor of Seville to avoid the persons who had been stationed to see that he carried out the conditions of the agreement. He escaped their watchfulness and sailed back to Darien in 1530. In the little force which he took with him, numbering not much over a hundred, there were four young, strong, valiant men, whose names are given because they played an important part in the conquest. Three of them, Fernando, Juan, and Gonzalez, were Pizarro's step-brothers; the fourth, Francis of Alcántara, a relative on his mother's side.¹

As soon as Pizarro reached Mexican waters he directed his course to Nombre de Dios. There he landed and marched across the isthmus to Panama. Almagro's delight over his return and the success of his mission to Spain quickly changed to surprise and indignation when he learned of Pizarro's base

¹ Francisco Martin Alcántara was a half-brother of Pizarro, on his mother's side. He was born in 1480 and left Spain with him in 1529. He was killed at the same time as Pizarro.

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treachery. The high-minded soldier declined any further association with a man guilty of such base conduct. "Is it thus," he exclaimed, "you deceive the friend who has shared all dangers, hardships, and expense with you, you who sacredly promised on your departure to look after my interests equally with your own? How could you offer me a reimbursement so insignificant that it makes my service appear of no value as compared with yours, and thus belittle me in the eyes of the world?"

Pizarro contended that he had zealously urged his friend's claims upon the King, but that the latter had refused to divide authority. So Almagro either had to take what was offered or decline it altogether. Pizarro next sought to appease him by declaring that the new country was big enough for the ambition of both, and that his friend's power would be as great as his own, for all that he himself had would be held at Almagro's disposal as freely as if it were his. But his assurances did not satisfy Almagro and the two leaders separated with feelings of estrangement and enmity which were ill omens for the success of the undertaking. Almagro's friends were not less indignant than he at this humiliating treatment by an inexperienced man of an old and tried soldier. The quarrel indeed went so far that Almagro determined to act independently of Pizarro and secure vessels for an expedition of his own, but Luque endeavored to close the breach between them, which, if continued, would be the death-blow to the project and all that

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it promised for them. Through his intermediation an appearance, at least, of reconciliation was secured, Pizarro having promised that he would make Almagro a governor and request the Emperor to confirm the appointment, and that the spoils should be divided in three equal portions between the original partners in the compact. This, however, was only a temporary closing of a wound which was deep-seated and only needed slight cause to break out again more malignantly than ever.

Preparations for the voyage now actively began. They had little sympathy from the settlers at Panama for the calamities of the first expedition were only too well known to arouse interest in a second one, however inviting the prospects of booty.

Chapter VII

Pizarro in Tumbes — History of the Inca Country to the Time of His Arrival

THE expedition fitted out by Pizarro and his friends consisted of three small vessels, one hundred and ninety soldiers, and twenty-seven horses for the cavalry. With this insignificant force, but with a courage which was worth thousands of men, Pizarro sailed in the year 1531. He intended to land at Tumbes, but, as wind and weather were contrary, he was forced to run into the Bay of St. Matthäus. From there he marched to Tumbes, a distance of more than fifty miles. In addition to the ordinary difficulties of their march the Spaniards brought trouble upon themselves by their inordinate greed. Instead of seeking to win the goodwill of the natives, they alienated them by plunder and deeds of violence. One result of this was that the natives everywhere fled from them, and another was an immediate scarcity of provisions. Enfeebled by hunger and hardships of various kinds, they reached Coaque, a place near the ocean and on the equator. Like a flock of hungry wolves the Spaniards rushed into the Indian city, drove away the terrified natives, and seized their possessions. These consisted not only of provisions but of gold

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and silver articles and precious stones, called Smaragden (emeralds), found in that region.

To secure still further reinforcements Pizarro sent one vessel to Panama and another to Nicaragua, hoping to obtain recruits by dazzling descriptions of his good fortune and exhibitions of some of the rich booty he had secured. In the meantime he continued his advance along the coast with a most reckless boldness. The natives fled before him wherever he appeared. The Spaniards continued their plundering and violence, and no one was bold enough to offer resistance until they reached the island of Puna in the Bay of Guayaquil which Pizarro selected as a convenient place to await the return of his vessels. Some boats were made, and in these he rowed here and there around the island. Greatly to his surprise he found an entirely different kind of natives from those he had recently encountered on the mainland. These islanders, who seemed to be an independent nation, were courageous and warlike people who did their utmost rather than suffer their possessions to be carried off. They opposed the Spaniards, in spite of the latter's weapons and skill, with such vigor that it took Pizarro six months to bring them into complete subjection. Meanwhile his vessels returned from Panama and Nicaragua, bringing a small but very valuable reinforcement. Each one of them had about thirty recruits and horses for cavalry on board. They also brought two distinguished officers

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— Benalcazar,¹ who later became one of the South American conquerors most famous for his courage, activity, and cruelty, and Hernando De Soto,² who subsequently became world-famous as the discoverer of the Mississippi River, past whose grave upon its banks the majestic stream flows — fitting place for his eternal rest and a fitting memorial of his fame. Pizarro now decided to remain there no longer. He resolved to invade the interior of this extensive empire and conquer a country which embraced far more square miles than he could count heads in his little army. He left the island of Puna and first made his way once more to Tumbes, where he had the misfortune to find he was not as welcome as he had been formerly. The rapacities and violence of his men were known everywhere and, in place of the hospitality with which he had been received formerly by the people and their cacique, the Spaniards were regarded with fear and abhorrence. The natives had risen in arms and all efforts to conciliate them proved fruitless.

¹ Sebastian de Benalcazar was born in Spain in 1499 and died in 1550. He first joined the expedition of Pedrarias to Darien and afterward Pizarro. He conquered Quito and several provinces north of it. In 1538 he was made governor of Popayan, a district which is now southwestern Colombia.

² Hernando de Soto was born at Badajos in 1500 and died on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1542. He went to Darien with Pedrarias in 1514 and joined Pizarro in 1532. In 1537 he was made governor of Cuba and Florida. In 1539 he started on a long expedition through the southwestern parts of the United States, during which he discovered the Mississippi River in 1541. He died of malarial fever near the junction of the Red and Mississippi Rivers.

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Pizarro, indignant at their action, decided to attack the cacique. In the company of his two brothers and a troop of fifty horsemen he set out at night, crossed a river separating the enemy's army from his own, marched all night through an almost impassable region, and at daybreak reached the spot where the cacique's men were encamped. The poor Indians, surprised at the unexpected appearance of the Spaniards, who were not supposed to be in their vicinity, and terrified at the sight of the "monsters" (the horses), were in no condition to withstand the attack: they took to flight, some were sabred, and the others scattered in all directions. The cacique, convinced by this disaster of his own weakness and the enemy's strength, sent gifts to Pizarro and begged for peace. When Pizarro entered Tumbes he found the city not only forsaken but nearly destroyed. Four or five of the principal houses, the great temple, and the fort, somewhat defaced and stripped of their adornments, alone marked the site of the city and its former splendor. The sight of this devastation startled Pizarro, for the new recruits had heard much of Tumbes' golden treasures. They had been assured that after their hardships they should be rewarded with booty; now they found they had been deceived. Peru's gold was only a chimera. The cacique explained to the Spaniards, however, the real cause of his city's destruction. The natives of Tumbes had carried on a long war with the islanders of Puna, and the latter had captured the

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city and driven its people to the neighboring woods and mountains. The Inca, or prince, to whom Tumbes was subject, was too far away and too busy with his own troubles to come to the help of the city. Pizarro, realizing that it was not prudent to remain longer in a situation where he could not depend upon the faithfulness of his own people, without promising them hope of reward, decided to leave a part of his force in Tumbes, particularly those who on account of their physical condition were not fitted for field work, and with the others to penetrate to the interior of the country for discovery and conquest.

Concerning this mighty empire, at the gates of which Pizarro was now standing, there are many legends and stories told by historical writers, which deserve mention. The Peruvian Empire at that time had flourished for four hundred years. Its founders were Manco Capac and his wife, Mama Occlo Huaco. It is claimed that both these persons, who, as well as their royal successors, are called Incas, were of European descent. The Spanish conquerors of this empire were further assured that the Inca families were of whiter skin and different physique from the other natives, showing that they were of European origin. Be this as it may, it is certain that Manco Capac and his wife laid the foundations of the Peruvian Empire. Both these Incas, they say, greatly differed from the wild, naked natives in stature, color, and dress. They

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suddenly made their appearance, no one knew from whence, and announced themselves as Children of the Sun, who had been sent to make the people good and happy. The spot where they settled was Cuzco. It is further related that Manco taught the people of that mountainous region to cultivate the land, to clothe themselves, and to live in huts. His wife taught the women how to spin and perform various kinds of household work. Both found docile scholars and gradually transformed these wild people into a nation which well deserved to be called civilized.

The first effort of these law-givers was to substitute a milder and more merciful religion for the inhuman religion of the natives, the principal feature of which was human sacrifice. They taught them that there was only one high deity, who tenderly loved men, his creatures, and was well pleased when they loved one another. This benign, loving, and high divinity was the sun. The Incas derived their origin from it, erected temples to it, and many of them served as priests. The unmarried women of the race were consecrated to service like the Roman vestals and Christian nuns. This did not prevent them from marrying, but their husbands had to be of the Inca race. The moon was also a species of divinity but of lower rank and not immortal. Nothing is more curious than their belief about its eclipse. Whenever this occurred, they thought it was sick and were much concerned lest

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it should die, fall from the sky, and destroy the earth. Their fear of this imaginary disaster was extreme and the method they devised for averting it very funny. They would make a horrible noise with screams, pipes, and drums to arouse the poor sick planet from its lethargy. They would also let loose their dogs to bay and howl at it, fancying that the moon, which was very fond of these animals, would be greatly encouraged by their noise. They would also incite their children to shriek and wail, and during the universal uproar young and old would incessantly exclaim, while weeping violently: "Mama Kuilla" ("Dear mother moon"). When the eclipse was over, they believed she was better. When she shone out again in all her brilliancy, they shouted with joy and all thanked dear Mama Kuilla that she did not die and fall down on them.

Chapter VIII

Habits and Customs of the Peruvians

THE basis of Peruvian law and civil government at that time was the sentiment, "Love one another as brothers." This was the first and most conspicuous principle which the Incas promulgated in their legal system, and not satisfied with this, they made such regulations as to land that their subjects felt they were members of one and the same great family.

The lands were divided into four parts. "One," said the Incas, "belongs to the Sun and must be cultivated in common. The returns from the Sun field shall go to the support of the priests and sacred maidens and of the religious service generally. The returns from the second part shall be devoted to the aged, the widows and orphans, the sick and the afflicted, and the defenders of the country against enemies. The third part belongs to us, your rulers, and you must assist in its cultivation, for we are your benefactors and see that no one brings disaster to the country and that no one of you suffers. Finally, the fourth part shall be so divided among you all that each family shall have what is requisite for its maintenance."

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In the labor season the good people, also the princes of the Inca family, gathered together as joyously as if for a dance. This was really so, for the labor season always opened and closed with music and the dance. First they cultivated the field of the sun, then the acres set apart for the needy and the warriors, then the lands of the Incas, and lastly those apportioned to the people. Their joint labor and the innocent delight they shared together inspired confidence and brotherly good feeling. They regarded the Incas as their fathers, themselves as brothers, and the whole nation as one great family. Whatever the Incas ordered was held as sacred because the people considered it the direct command of the sun, their divinity. If one of them had the misfortune to violate a law, he was the first to announce it, confess his offence, and pray that he be punished. In order to maintain and cherish the brotherly sentiment which the Incas impressed upon the Peruvians, no one could claim anything as his own. The lands themselves set apart for each family were not their permanent possessions but at the expiration of each year were subject to a new assignment, regard being paid each time to the increase or decrease of the family. Gold and silver had no value in their eyes, except as a durable material for their useful vessels. As a medium of trade, money was entirely unknown to them. One gave the other what he had left over or exchanged it for things he could use which the other did not need.

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The wise law-givers of this nation expressly prohibited idleness, for they well knew that it was the source of all vices and that it inevitably led to degeneration of body and soul. They punished the vicious very severely, justly holding that they sinned not only against themselves but the whole community since they consumed the fruits of others' labor without contributing anything to the general welfare. Even the old and the weak, who were unable to work, had to make themselves useful to their neighbors by watching the crops and driving away the birds. It is also worthy of notice that the young Incas had to satisfy certain tests before they were deemed worthy of being called Children of the Sun, or, so to speak, of being ennobled. The Incas seem to have kept this principle steadily in view, that any one who is to rule over others and to be respected by others must excel in strength of body and soul, in capability and in virtue. They were far from believing that mere birth could make any one noble. He who desired to be called a noble and to be regarded as such by others could not derive nobility from his ancestors but must prove himself noble in the eyes of all men, by satisfying the following tests:

When the young Incas reached their sixteenth year, they were conducted to a building set apart for the special purpose. There they were joined by certain of the old men of the Inca family who were qualified by experience to act as judges. The

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first test was one of fasting for six successive days, during which time they were given only a handful of maize and a little water. The relatives of the young men fasted with them to encourage them by their example, and implored their common father, the Sun, to give their children strength and resolution to endure the test. Those who could not, or expressed a longing for food, were declared unworthy of the honor of being Children of the Sun, and were rejected.

Those who succeeded in the first test were at once subjected to the second. A mile and a half from the city of Cuzco was a sacred mound. Thither the young and old repaired to see how many could run to the city without stopping. The elders and relatives stationed themselves along the road to encourage the runners by their applause. Those who were unfortunate enough to fail were also declared unworthy and rejected.

The successful ones were now required to submit to a third test. They were divided into two parties, and one was obliged to attempt storming a fortress which the others defended. For this display of their warlike ability blunt weapons were given them, but the contest often grew so furious that some were killed and others dangerously wounded. When it was over, they were required, two by two, to exhibit their strength and agility in the ring in spear-throwing, archery, and the use of the sling. After they had exhibited their skill in these feats, they were placed

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on guard for ten or twelve nights, and woe to him who closed his eyes for an instant! He was pitilessly scourged and declared unworthy of the nobility of his fathers. Indeed there was no escape for any one from the last, for it was an important feature of the test. They were scourged upon their bare arms and legs without mercy and were not allowed to exhibit the least trace of feeling. The slightest quivering or shrinking from the blows reflected disgrace and caused their rejection, for the judges declared that those who could not endure the strokes of the rod were unfit to bear the severer blows they must suffer in the defence of their fatherland. They even went still farther than this in their requirements. Skilled fighters were employed to practise their dexterity in terrifying the youths. They rushed with sharp spears pointed directly at their eyes, as if intending to pierce them, and again pretended they were about to cut off an arm or a leg. Those who displayed the least alarm or glanced at the part of the body which their assailant threatened, or drew back in the slightest degree, were rejected. For, said the judges, one who shrinks from the weapons of a friend who has no intention of harming him will be certain to shrink from the weapons of an enemy.

After they had in these various ways proved their steadfastness, endurance, courage, and warlike activity, these youths had further to show that they had learned how to provide themselves with

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the essentials of the soldier, by making a bow and arrow, battle club, javelin, spear, sling, shield, and pair of shoes, the latter with leather soles and fastenings of woollen bands. During these tests, lasting an entire month, the young Incas were visited daily by their superiors and teachers, who encouraged them to hold out. They reminded them of the divinity of their origin, impressed upon them their duty of sacrificing themselves for the welfare of their fatherland, explained to them the magnanimity they must exhibit to every citizen of the State and the generosity which as Children of the Sun they must extend to the needy. They particularly impressed justice upon them as the highest duty of all and urged that they must so use their power and authority as to be in condition to protect the innocent and see that no one suffered from injustice.

The heir to the throne, crown prince as we would call him, also had to satisfy these tests. Indeed he had to exhibit greater fitness than the others, for, said the judges, "as he is to rule over all it is essential that he shall excel all in virtue and in merit and that he shall be the strongest, most steadfast, most temperate, most generous, and most active in the whole empire. It is these qualities, not his birth, that entitle him to rule, and it is necessary that he shall become experienced in the hardships and fatigue of war that he may learn the value of these things in future operations." During these

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tests the future King was clad in mean attire and was obliged to go barefooted that he might learn to regard the least and poorest of his people as his brothers, to treat them kindly, and to make himself worthy of the honorable title "Huchacujac," or "Friend of the Poor."

After all these tests were satisfactorily made the mothers and sisters of the noble youths met to place upon them the first badge of honor, a pair of knit shoes. Then the King himself appeared, attended by the nobles, his nearest relatives. The youths prostrated themselves before him on the earth while he made them a brief address, in which he admonished them that it was not enough to wear the insignia of rank. They must also practise the virtues for which their noble ancestors had been famous. Thereupon the youths approached and knelt before the King, one after the other, to receive the highest symbol of royalty, the pierced ears. The King performed this with a large golden needle, piercing the ears and gradually enlarging the hole. The youths thereupon kissed the King's hand and turned to the second Inca in the line, who removed their shoes and replaced them with still finer ones which were the Incas' marks of distinction. Then he kissed each of them upon the right shoulder, saying: "The Child of the Sun who has shown these proofs by virtue is worthy of the kiss." The royal fillet was then given to each, consisting of a woollen cloth wound about the head and adorned with

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flowers and foliage. Finally each was presented with a spear and battle-axe, with these words: "These weapons are given you that you may punish traitors, the cruel and the idle, and all evil-doers who disturb the quiet of society." At the close of these ceremonies the relatives embraced the youths and expressed their delight at the success they had achieved. The joyous occasion was celebrated with singing and dancing for several days. Thus was the Empire of Peru founded upon wise principles and provided with judicious, good, and brave princes for its rulers.

Eleven good, brave, and frugal kings had successively ruled the Empire since its foundation by Manco, not one of whom had sought to extend the limits of his sovereignty. They were content with what they had, defended it valiantly against all aggressors, and had no desire for territorial aggrandizement. The laws of the wise Manco were sacred to them and their subjects alike. All strove to live up to them and all were contented and happy. But this happiness vanished when a King came to the throne who was ambitious for conquest, Huayna Capac, the twelfth of the line. He conquered the great province of Quito and thereby enlarged the Empire to twice its size, but in so doing paved the way for its future downfall. To secure this new territory still more firmly, he married the daughter of the vanquished sovereign and thereby violated the law held sacred by his predecessors that the Incas

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should not marry persons outside their own families. Like king, like people. Having trodden the laws of his country under foot, his subjects did likewise.

Huayna Capac left two sons, one of whom married into the family of the Incas, the other into the family of the conquered sovereign. One of these was named Huascar, the other Atahualpa. At his death Capac ordered the two brothers to divide the sovereignty between them. Huascar ruled the old Empire of his father, Atahualpa the Province of Quito. The order displeased the whole people; observing which, Huascar determined to force his brother to give up his sovereignty over Quito, and thus the country was plunged into civil strife. Huascar had the laws and popular sentiment on his side, and Atahualpa the strong army left in Quito by his father upon his. The issue could not long remain in doubt. Right yielded to might. Atahualpa was victorious and Huascar was made prisoner. To secure his sovereignty Atahualpa killed all of the adherents of the regular government, whom he could not subject to his authority. He spared his brother's life, not from kindness or humanity, but to appease his subjects and carry out his designs.

Thus matters stood in Peru when Pizarro undertook its conquest. The rulers and the people of this unfortunate country were so engrossed with their internal difficulties that they hardly gave any attention to the advance of the Spaniards into

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their empire. Both Huascar and Atahualpa hoped that the arrival of these formidable strangers would be of advantage to their own side, and both sought to secure their friendship.

Chapter IX

Founding of the Colony of San Miguel — Difficult March to Caxamarca — The Inca Atahualpa taken Prisoner

PIZARRO advanced southward from Tumbes until he reached the mouth of the river Piura where the Spaniards founded San Miguel, the first European settlement in Peru. Finding the place well adapted for a colony, Pizarro decided to leave a part of his little army there to organize it while he with his handful of men penetrated the interior. After settling upon this plan he received a messenger from the imprisoned Huascar who implored help against his brother and gave him the first reliable intelligence concerning the unrest which prevailed in the country. It also explained why he had met with no resistance up to this time. He determined to take advantage of the situation at once and, in September, 1532, advanced upon Caxamarca, where Atahualpa was encamped with fifty thousand of the best of the Peruvian soldiers. He had not advanced far before he was met by a deputation whose mission was much more clearly explained by gifts than by words, and that brought an invitation from the Inca to meet him and close a friendly alliance. The gifts consisted of fruits

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of various kinds, beautifully woven fabrics, gold and silver articles, and precious stones, besides a pair of half boots and golden bracelets for Pizarro, which he was to wear so that the Inca might recognize him at once.

Pizarro accepted the invitation with alacrity and now advanced with confidence, meanwhile sending his brother Ferdinand and Captain De Soto in advance to welcome the Inca in his name. He himself was everywhere received by the natives with the utmost respect. They brought him and his men provisions in abundance and even treated the horses most generously, for, observing them champing their bits, they imagined that these wonderful creatures lived upon metal, and supplied them with ample store of gold and silver to gain their favor. The Spaniards took advantage of their delusion to fill their sacks with this remarkable horse feed. They maintained a peaceable attitude toward the natives, also, in order to accomplish the difficult march without being attacked. As they encountered no enemies, Pizarro had no doubt that he would reach the camp without trouble, but at the same time he suspected that they might be tempting him into the heart of the country, hoping to destroy his army; but he did not hesitate on that account.

On the fifth day after his departure from San Miguel he came to a halt in a lonely valley and inspected his force. He had one hundred and seventy-seven men, of whom sixty-seven were

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mounted, but only three gunners and a few archers. His troops were tolerably well equipped and generally in good condition. Some of his men, however, did not seem to him to have the requisite courage for such a venturesome undertaking. He therefore ordered the faint-hearted ones to appear before him and frankly acknowledge their fear and promised that he would gladly send them back to San Miguel. Nine men, five foot-soldiers and four troopers, acknowledged their desire to go back, the others loudly declared they were willing to follow their leader. Thus Pizarro purged his army of all dissatisfaction and was able to resume his march with soldiers who were ready and eager for battle.

Without further delay Pizarro devoted earnest consideration to the crossing of the Cordilleras, which required greater exertions than the Spaniards had yet made. The road led over a rough and steep mountainous region and in many places was very narrow. A false step might hurl them hundreds—even thousands—of feet down into dreadful abysses. Riders had to dismount and carefully lead their horses by the bridle. Huge, dangerous fissures, made by earthquakes, yawned beneath them, in whose gloomy depths wild mountain torrents rushed. Rocky passes had to be traversed and the Spaniards anxiously watched every step they made, for a few natives might easily have cut thousands to pieces in such places, but no enemy was seen. In the meantime the climate gradually changed, and men and

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horses suffered as much from the enervating heat as they had done from the cold. At last the level country was reached in which Caxamarca was situated.

The two officers sent in advance reached the camp, which was about a mile from Caxamarca, and were met by a troop of armed Indians who advanced to pay them honor. In doubt as to their intentions, De Soto put spurs to his horse and rode at full speed to meet their leader. The sight of a galloping horse was so new and fearful to the Peruvians that they became panic-stricken and instantly fled, leaving their leader alone to receive the dreaded strangers, and conduct them to the Inca's quarters where they were cordially welcomed. Drink was offered them and they were seated upon chairs of gold. Through their interpreter, Felipillo, Ferdinand explained the purpose of their visit in the following words: "The mighty ruler of the morning land, our master, and the head of the Christian Church, the Pope, have sent us to free the Inca and his subjects from the power of the devil." Their purpose, however, was so bunglingly stated by the interpreter, who himself did not understand one word in three of it, that it was wholly incomprehensible to the Inca. He replied with great stateliness that he would visit their leader himself in the morning and ascertain his pleasure. The two officers retired to Caxamarca where Pizarro had arrived and where he had made his headquarters in a house belonging to the Inca.

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Everything that the Peruvians saw or heard about the strangers so confused them that they were in doubt what to believe, but at last the Inca decided to call upon Pizarro. Preparations were made on each side for this event but of a very different character. Atahualpa arranged for a festal procession with not the slightest suspicion of deceit or malice on the part of the strangers. Pizarro, on the other hand, made preparations which were anything but friendly in appearance. He divided his sixty riders into three detachments under command of his brother, De Soto, and Benalcazar, and stationed them behind an old wall where they could not be seen but would be in readiness when wanted. He planted two cannon at the entrance to the courtyard and stationed archers near them on either side. Twenty of his picked men were reserved as his body-guard and the rest of the foot-soldiers stood under arms in the inner court. His purpose was a treacherous one — to make Atahualpa a prisoner, as Cortes had made Montezuma.

At early dawn the next morning the whole Peruvian camp was in commotion getting ready for the display with which Atahualpa proposed to impress Pizarro and the strangers with his stateliness. A good part of the day was occupied with the preparations, and toward its close the cortege moved forward, but so slowly that it took them four hours to cover the mile they had to go. The Spaniards grew impatient, and as Pizarro thought

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the delay might arise from their suspicions, he sent one of his officers to meet the Inca and assure him of his friendly reception. Atahualpa had not the least doubt of this and continued his gradual approach to Caxamarca with his imposing retinue. He was borne on a litter, bedecked with gold, silver, precious stones, and feathers, and carried by his leading court attendants. Those next him in rank were carried in a similar manner. Bands of singers and dancers accompanied them on either side, and an army of thirty thousand men composed the rest of the brilliant procession. At last the Spanish quarters were reached. A multitude of defenceless doves fluttered about the nest of a savage hawk waiting to pounce upon them with its cruel claws. The Inca noticed the warlike attitude of the Spaniards and said to his friends, several of whom were growing uneasy: "These strangers are divine messengers; be careful not to offend them and make every effort to appease them by your courtesy." While he was saying this Vicente de Valverde, a Spanish priest, advanced with a cross in one hand and a breviary in the other, approached the Inca's litter, and made him a long address, in which he expounded to him the doctrines of the creation, of Adam's fall, of the incarnation, sufferings, death, and resurrection of Christ. This was followed by a pompous description of the sanctity and power of the Pope, the divine representative on earth, closing with the unexpected announcement that this Pope (Alexander

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Sixth) had given the entire New World to the King of Spain. Thereupon he admonished the Inca to accept the Christian faith immediately, and to recognize the infallibility of the Pope and the sovereignty of the King of Spain, his rightful master. He added that upon these conditions he would remain in possession of his rank and would be protected against all enemies, but if he declined to accept the conditions, war would be proclaimed against him in the name of the King.

Atahualpa listened quietly to this long address, as interpreted to him. The little that he understood of it aroused his astonishment, but he retained his composure and answered courteously that he was ready to be the friend and ally of the King of Spain but not his vassal. As far as the Pope was concerned, he must be a wonderful man if he could give away things that did not belong to him. He would not exchange his religion for any other, as it seemed unreasonable to him to give up the imperishable sun for a God of the Christians, who by their own acknowledgment had died upon a cross. As to the other matters mentioned by the priest he did not understand them, but he was desirous of knowing how they became known to him.

"Through this book," replied the priest, handing him the breviary.

The Inca looked at the book on all sides, held it to his ear, smiled, and said, as he contemptuously threw it down, "It does not say a word."

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This inflamed the priest's wrath. He furiously turned to the Spaniards and in a loud voice exclaimed: "Revenge, Christians! Revenge! You see how he has insulted the word of God. Up, kill these dogs who trample God's law under their feet."

At this Pizarro, who had hardly been able to restrain his men at sight of so much rich booty, gave the signal for attack. Drums and trumpets suddenly sounded, and cannon and musketry hurled death into the ranks of the astonished Peruvians. At the same time the cavalry dashed forward from their concealment and Pizarro, at the head of the foot-soldiers, charged upon those who were guarding the person of the Inca. The nobles rallied about him courageously, ready to sacrifice their lives for him, but the rest fled. A great multitude perished by the sabres of the cavalry or were trampled to death under the feet of the horses. Pizarro sprang forward to the litter, seized the betrayed Inca by the arm, and hurried him to his quarters. The few nobles who had ventured to protect him were killed. The others who had fled were pursued and all who could be overtaken were sabred without mercy. The massacre lasted until night. Over four thousand Peruvians, among them many children, women, and defenceless old men, were victims, but not one of the murderers received the slightest wound, except Pizarro, whose hand was a little bruised by one of his own soldiers in seizing the Inca. To add to the crimes of this dreadful day,

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the Spaniards, after they had collected their plunder on the battlefield, spent the whole night in riotous excesses. On the following morning they took possession of the Peruvian camp, where they found astonishing treasures of gold and silver. But even then they were not satisfied. The more that fell into the hands of these robbers, the more they coveted, the stronger grew their passion, and the more inhuman their choice of means to satisfy their greed.

Chapter X

The Inca is Promised his Freedom if he will Furnish a Certain Amount of Gold — The Gold is Obtained from Various Cities, Cuzco among them, and Divided, but the Inca is not Released — Almagro Arrives with his Army

THE poor Atahualpa was now a prisoner. His first feeling was one of astonishment at such treacherous treatment. Then followed deep sorrow over the sudden ruin of his power and his happiness. His feelings, however, did not prevent him from watching the actions of his faithless captor in hope of ascertaining his motives. He soon realized that the greed of gold was his ruling passion, and upon this he built his hopes of securing his freedom.

The room in which he was confined was twenty-two feet long and sixteen feet wide. The Inca offered to fill it with gold as high as Pizarro could reach with his hands if he would accept it as his ransom. He also agreed to fill an adjoining smaller apartment with silver twice in like manner. The tempting offer was promptly accepted. Pizarro indicated the designated height by a line upon the wall, and the Inca despatched messengers to Cuzco, Quito, and other places, with an order for the people

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to furnish the ransom. The devotion of these people to their sovereign was so great that the request of the imprisoned Atahualpa was as sacred as if he were free. They began collecting an immense amount of gold from every direction and the hope of soon seeing their ruler free again restrained them from making any show of opposition to the strangers, who, after this shameless treachery, did not hesitate to rove about the country bent upon pillage.

In the meantime the gold which had been promised was too slow in coming to satisfy the greedy Spaniards. The Inca attributed the delay to the great distance of the places which were to furnish it, Cuzco being a hundred miles off and the way there extremely difficult. He suggested that Pizarro should send some of his own men to convince himself that he was able to make good his promise. Noticing that Pizarro hesitated about sending his men so far into the interior, he said, smiling: "What do you fear? Have you not my wives, my children, and myself in your power? Are we not a sufficient guaranty that no one will be harmed?" Thereupon De Soto agreed to make the long journey, accompanied by two Spaniards, and the Inca tendered the use of one of his sedan chairs so that his subjects might receive him with still greater respect.

Huascar in the meantime heard in his imprisonment of the Spaniards' lust of gold and his brother's agreement. He sought to turn this passion of the Europeans to his own advantage, and secretly sent

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messengers to Pizarro to inform him that he would give the Spaniard a larger gift of gold than his brother if he would assist him in recovering his throne.

Atahualpa, hearing of the offer and fearing that Pizarro might accept it before he was released, and that he thus might lose both crown and freedom, secretly ordered his brother to be killed. The order was promptly obeyed and Huascar was murdered. It is said that as he was dying he spoke these prophetic words: "I have reigned but a short time, but this usurper who disposes of my life, though he is still my subject, will reign no longer than I." Atahualpa pretended that it was against his wishes that his brother had been murdered, and received the news with expressions of astonishment and indignation. He immediately sent to Pizarro and informed him of the event with every manifestation of deepest sorrow.

In the meantime De Soto and his companions continued their journey to Cuzco. Everywhere they went they were received with the respect and honor which the Peruvians were accustomed to pay to their sovereign and divinities. At last they arrived at their destination and were astonished at the vast quantity of gold and silver in the palaces of the Inca and the temples of the sun. Their greed for these metals was so ungovernable that they proceeded to strip the sacred edifices. The Peruvians, shocked at the idea of such profanation,

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assured them they would furnish the necessary ransom if they would not despoil the temples. The reckless Spaniards, however, tore down the gold adornments from the walls and the astonished Peruvians had to stand by and witness the desecration, so great was the fear with which this handful of European robbers was regarded by a whole nation!

Meanwhile the agreeable news reached the Spanish headquarters that Almagro had arrived at San Miguel with a strong reinforcement. Fearing that these newcomers might demand an equal division of the plunder, if they found it still undivided, it was decided to portion it out at once, although the amount of gold which Atahualpa had agreed to secure was not yet complete. The fifth part of the whole was set apart for the Emperor and twenty thousand pesos for Almagro. Then Pizarro, his brother, and the other officers, according to their position, received their proportion. In the ranks each cavalryman was given eight thousand and each foot-soldier four thousand pesos. (The peso is equivalent in value to about eleven United States dollars.) Almagro soon arrived with his force at Caxamarca. Although he did not regard the share set apart for him and his companions by any means as inconsiderable, still he and his men could not but feel indignant that Pizarro should have appropriated the lion's share of it for himself and his people. The result was reproaches and quarrels which might easily have

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ended in bloodshed had not Pizarro found ways to conciliate his associate with gifts and promises. The poor Inca vainly appealed for the fulfilment of the promise made to him. He was not set at liberty. Both Pizarro and Almagro regarded these unfortunate Americans as half men and half animals, against whom any injustice might be committed without a qualm of conscience. Instead of keeping the promise, the Inca was treated with shameless indifference and contumely. Fernando Pizarro was the only one who seemed to have any feeling of pity for him, but he was soon deprived even of this consolation. Fernando was selected to go to Spain, taking with him the Emperor's share of the spoils and reports of the progress of the expedition up to that time. The Inca was deeply grieved and, when he saw his only protector about to leave, said: "Are you going to forsake me, Captain? Then indeed I am lost. In your absence Big Paunch and One Eye will surely kill me." By "One Eye" he meant Almagro and by "Big Paunch" the imperial treasurer.

Chapter XI

Atahualpa is Executed — Pizarro Marches to Cuzco

THERE were many considerations which made the Inca a troublesome prisoner for the Spaniards. On the one hand Almagro and his soldiers feared that as long as he lived Pizarro and his people would claim for themselves all the treasure they collected as his ransom. Pizarro also regarded himself as personally insulted by Atahualpa. Of all the arts of the Europeans the intelligent Atahualpa admired none more than that of reading and writing. The easy way in which they could thus communicate with each other was a revelation to him. He was in doubt whether the Spaniards were born with this gift or whether they acquired it by education and long and skilful practice. To satisfy himself he asked one of his guards to write the name of his God upon his thumb-nail, and the soldier did so. Then he showed his nail to all who came into the room and asked them to read the name. To his great surprise they all read the same word. At last Pizarro came in, and Atahualpa asked him also to read it. The unfortunate leader, who had been a swine-herd in his youth, had not learned to read or write and was forced to expose his ignorance.

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From that moment the Inca looked down upon him as a man without education, being convinced that reading was a mark of intellectual ability and that a European who did not possess that gift must be of low birth and breeding. Pizarro was furious at seeing himself thus regarded by an American and watched for an opportunity to wipe out the disgrace in blood.

The low-born, wretched interpreter, Felipillo, at this time had suddenly grown presumptuous enough to cherish the ambitious project of marrying a daughter of the sun, one of the Inca's spouses, but was well aware he could not accomplish it while the Inca was living. The shameless fellow thereupon laid a plot to have the unfortunate Inca put out of the way, by circulating the report that he had planned the murder of all the Spaniards, and that a large force of armed Peruvians was in readiness at a certain place to accomplish it. Such a weighty accusation as this merited careful investigation, but it was sufficient for the barbarian who had already decided upon his death and who only needed the slightest pretext to give his inhuman purpose a color of justice. It is true they pretended to give the accused an opportunity to clear himself and organized a court before which he could defend himself against the accusations brought by Felipillo, but as every statement he made in proof of his innocence was interpreted by Felipillo, who could misstate at his pleasure, it is easy to see that the

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trial was a farce and was instituted for the sake of future justification. The Inca affirmed his innocence. "Am I not," he said to Pizarro, "a wretched prisoner in your hands? How could I conceive of such a purpose as you accuse me of when I should be its first victim? You little know my people if you think that such an uprising could occur without my consent, for the very birds in my country hardly venture to fly against my will." There were not a few among the companions of Pizarro who expressed detestation of his murderous purpose and used every possible exertion to save the unfortunate Inca. But they were voted down and he was condemned to death.

Pizarro was cruel enough to announce his fate to him. The Inca wept bitterly, threw himself upon his knees before his murderer, and implored mercy. He protested his innocence and piteously complained of the faithlessness which had been displayed toward him, in first taking the ransom which he had furnished, and then taking his life. He finally begged Pizarro, if he did not have confidence in him, to send him to the Emperor, promising to take with him an enormous quantity of gold. After he had said this he gave free course to his tears, but Pizarro, the cold, pitiless, inhuman barbarian, simply replied that once his decision was made it could not be changed. It was decided he should be burned alive. Valverde, the priest, promised that his punishment should be a milder one if he accepted



*E*XECUTION OF THE INCA OF PERU BY PIZARRO

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the Christian faith. The unfortunate victim, already half dead, expressed his willingness to do what the priest required. He was baptized August 29, 1533, and immediately thereafter was beheaded.

The body of the Inca remained over night at the place of execution. On the following morning it was taken to the church of St. Francis where an imposing funeral service was held. Pizarro and his leading officers appeared in mourning and the soldiers listened in respectful silence to the mass for the dead celebrated by Father Valverde. The service was interrupted by an outcry in the church from the wives and sisters of the deceased, who were ready to offer themselves at his grave and accompany him to the land of spirits. They were told that Atahualpa had died in the Christian faith and that the God of the Christians abhorred such offerings. As they were removed, several of them placed their hands upon the Inca's as if they would gladly go with him to their beloved master's dazzling sun home. The body of the Inca was at first buried in the churchyard of St. Francis, but was subsequently removed to Quito.

This horrible murder quickly aroused universal indignation. Pizarro's conscience also smote him, and he sought to clear himself of responsibility for it, but in vain. He was and will always be regarded as the murderer of Atahualpa, whose death destroyed the existing order of things in Peru. Villages were burned, temples and palaces were looted. Gold was

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flung away and concealed, and the precious metals were collected and buried in caves and forests. The outlying provinces shook off the yoke which the Inca had imposed upon them and were ruled by their chieftains at the head of their warriors as self-appointed governors. Among these was Ruminavi, a chief on the borders of Quito, who sought to sever that kingdom from Peru and secure for it again its former independence. In view of this situation Pizarro decided to give the Peruvians an Inca and rule them through him. The real heir to the throne was the second son of Huayna Capac, Manco by name, the legitimate brother of the unfortunate Huascar, but Pizarro, knowing little of his sentiments, made the young Topascas, brother of Atahualpa, Inca, and the coronation was carried out with as much ceremony as circumstances permitted. Pizarro observed with great satisfaction the internal disorder, for he saw how much easier it made the subjection of the country. Not to lose a moment in taking advantage of his opportunity, he decided to move at once upon Cuzco, the capital. A force of about five hundred men set out immediately for the sacred city. The young Inca followed, attended by a numerous retinue, and conducted himself with as much pomp and formality as if he were already in possession of his power.

Although the road had been selected with great care they encountered many difficulties, particularly

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the cavalry, when they were obliged to cross hanging bridges made of wicker. After strenuous exertions they reached the beautiful valley of Xauxa, where the young Inca died, much to the disappointment of Pizarro, who had intended to use him as a cloak for his designs. On this account and fearing attacks from the natives, he sent back the booty collected in Xauxa under a strong guard, and continued his march. He had nothing to fear, for the disorder of the country now was so great and the reinforcements which had arrived from Panama and other Spanish settlements so strong, that he could depend upon a successful accomplishment of his undertaking. Quizquiz, a native chief, organized a considerable force and attacked the Spaniards, but his horde of inexperienced natives could not withstand the handful of hardened European soldiers. The battle ended with frightful slaughter of the assailants, hardly one of the Spaniards being injured. On the fifteenth of November, 1533, Pizarro arrived at Cuzco.

The booty which they secured at the capital was enormous, surpassing in value the treasure which Atahualpa collected as his ransom, although much had been carried away by the natives before the Spaniards arrived. The Spaniards in consequence at last began to put little value upon the gold which they acquired so easily and in such vast quantities. Pizarro's delight at the successful achievement of his purpose was marred by a disaster which had happened to some of his men on the march,

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growing out of gross carelessness. They had fallen into the hands of a band of Peruvians and were taken to a brother of Atahualpa for judgment. Those among them who had tried to prevent the death of the Inca he released and richly rewarded, but those who had been concerned in the murder he had strangled at the stake where his brother had perished.

In the meantime, in another part of the shattered Empire, another event occurred which hastened its downfall. Benalcazar, whom Pizarro had left behind with a small force at San Miguel, heard of the progress made by the expedition to Cuzco and chafed under the necessity which forced him to lead an unprofitable and inglorious life while his companions were enriching themselves with gold and laurels. To dispel this inactivity he decided to set out for Quito, the capital of the province of the same name. Ruminavi was in possession there and he made his plans to attack him. A transport of recruits, arriving just at the right time, placed him in position to carry out his purpose. Leaving a small force at San Miguel, he set out. The way was long and difficult, but they overcame all obstacles, defeated Ruminavi, who had opposed them with the flower of the Peruvian soldiers, put them to flight, and took possession of Quito, where they hoped to find what was left of Atahualpa's treasures. They were sadly disappointed, however. The city was destitute of booty, for the natives, to disappoint the greedy

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Spaniards, had taken care to remove everything of any value. Thus the Spaniards had their long and difficult march for nothing.

Now appears another character upon the stage. As a reward for his service in Mexico, the valiant Alvarado had been rewarded by Cortez with the governorship of Guatemala. Hearing of Pizarro's success and being a restless, adventurous man, he resolved to go to Peru to share danger and rewards with his countrymen. His famous name attracted so many bold adventurers to his standard that he embarked with five hundred men, two hundred of whom had sufficient means to purchase horses, which at that time could only be bought by the very wealthy. He landed at Portoviejo, a port south of the equator, and from there marched inland toward Quito. There was no more difficult road in all America than the one he selected. The hardships which Pizarro and his men had experienced in all their previous expeditions were no more severe than Alvarado had to endure in this one march. Hunger at last forced them to kill and eat their horses, and their thirst was so great that the only way they could slake it was to lick the dew from the bushes. The cold was so intense in the mountains, which they had to climb, that sixty of them perished. In the lower regions a still more dreadful fate awaited them. The winds which swept over Cotopaxi brought with them such hot ashes that sometimes they were enveloped in a fiery cloud and

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some of them died from inhaling the hot air. Alvarado, however, pressed on, regardless of all obstacles, and at last neared the city of Quito, which was already in Benalcazar's possession.

Chapter XII

Peru in the Greatest Disorder — Pizarro Places Manco upon his Father's Throne and Founds the City of Lima — He is also Confirmed as Governor of the Conquered Country — Conflict with Almagro, who Attempts the Conquest of Chili

BENALCAZAR, who had been joined a short time before by Almagro and his forces, was greatly disturbed at the news of an approaching European army. Alvarado's designs were not known at the time, consequently Benalcazar knew not whether to expect an ally or an enemy. He decided, however, to march out and meet him, whatever might befall. Seven troopers were sent in advance to secure information, but by some mischance found themselves in the midst of Alvarado's men and were taken prisoners. They were brought before Alvarado, who, after asking them several questions about the number and condition of their force, treated them kindly and released them without giving them the least hint of his designs. This confirmed the suspicions of Benalcazar and Almagro, and they prepared to give battle. The shameless Felipillo, always ready for any vile deed which would inure to his own advantage, engaged in a new act of treachery by which he hoped to mount

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still higher. He deserted to Alvarado's army and agreed, if the necessary means were placed in his hands, not only to capture Almagro in person but in a short time to make him (Alvarado) master of the whole region. The magnanimous Alvarado, however, treated his offer with contempt, and his perfidious scheme was frustrated.

Meanwhile the two armies advanced until they were in sight of each other and then halted, awaiting some move on either side which would decide whether they were bent upon hostility or friendly communication. Both were too haughty to make friendly advances, and undoubtedly they would have speedily come to violence had not a common-sense man, who was a lawyer, not a soldier, addressed both parties and advised a truce of twenty-four hours for calm consideration of the situation. This was agreed to, and a settlement was soon reached. Alvarado was promised a hundred thousand pesos to pay for the cost of his expedition, and he agreed to return to his own province and not interfere in Peruvian affairs in the future.

The right to the throne of Peru after the murder of Atahualpa and the death of Topascas belonged to Manco, another son of Huayna Capac. Without any hesitation Pizarro decided to place him upon the throne and rule the country through him. Manco's accession was enthusiastically greeted by the people, who rejoiced to be ruled again by a prince of the old line of Cuzco. The customary

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coronation ceremony was rigidly observed, the young prince kept the prescribed fast, and at the designated time the nobles and the people, together with the entire Spanish army, assembled in the great plaza of Cuzco to participate in the pageant. Father Valverde celebrated the mass publicly, and the Inca received the crown from the hand of Pizarro. The Indian chief took the oath of loyalty, and during this function the banner of Castile was waved over them, not in token of Spanish triumph but of their own humiliation. The prince was a plaything in the hands of the conqueror. The glory of the Children of the Sun had departed, but the people submitted willingly to this mockery, appeared to be satisfied with the phantom of their former independence, and feasted, drank, and danced, careless of the future.

Pizarro's first step was the organization of a civil administration similar to those in the mother country. Gonzalo and Juan, his brothers, were appointed among other officials. Houses and lands were freely distributed among the Spaniards, Valverde was named Bishop of Cuzco and began his duties by turning the old structures into Christian cloisters and churches, where pious monks preached Christianity. Almagro and Benalcazar, in the meantime, accompanied by Alvarado, who was anxious to see Pizarro before his departure, returned to Quito. They had several fierce encounters with the brave Quizquiz, in which fourteen Spaniards were killed

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and fifty wounded. At last, as they neared the city to which Quizquiz and his men had retreated, the chief could not decide which way to turn. Some of his leaders were in favor of imploring for peace, but his bitterness against the oppressors of his country was so intense that he threatened any one with death who ventured again to give such advice. Others suggested that he should give decisive battle at once, and when he rejected this advice also, one of his chiefs became so furious that he hurled a spear through his body. The Peruvians thereupon scattered, and the Spaniards advanced without hindrance. Pizarro, in the meantime, had been informed of Alvarado's arrival and the agreement made with him, and resolved to meet his dreaded rival and induce him to return to Guatemala, the sooner the better. In their interview he overwhelmed him with displays of honor to flatter his pride, and counted out for him not only the promised hundred thousand pesos but added a great quantity of various costly adornments and precious stones as a voluntary contribution. Alvarado thereupon returned, leaving behind most of his men who took service under Pizarro, and the latter despatched his ally, Almagro, to Cuzco, as he wished to go to the coast. He commended his friend to the Inca, whom he left in care of his two brothers, and ordered him to treat the ruler kindly as well as the rest of the Peruvians who had submitted.

Pizarro next gave his consideration to the found-
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ing of a city which should be the central point of the conquered region and the seat of his government. He selected a site in a pleasant and fertile valley near the coast, lying upon the river Nimac, subsequently called Lima. There the first stone was laid on the so-called Three Kings' Day, January 6, 1535, and from that circumstance the city was called Ciudad de los Reyes ("City of the Kings"). It is now called Lima and has often been destroyed by earthquakes. Its upbuilding proceeded so rapidly that it seemed to spring from the earth. Pizarro adorned it with a splendid palace, built for himself, and his officers followed his example and erected buildings for themselves proportionate to their means. In the meantime Fernando Pizarro reached Spain, having taken with him a great quantity of gold and silver, constituting the fifth part of the spoils, which had been assigned to the Emperor. The monarch was astonished at the amount, and Court and people vied with each other in lavishing attentions and honors upon Fernando. The order of St. Jago was bestowed upon him, an honor highly prized by Spanish noblemen and the oldest families. His brother Franz and Almagro were not forgotten. The Emperor made the former a marquis and not only confirmed him as governor of the territory already conceded to him, but extended the same seventy miles southward along the coast. All these remote regions were described in the patent granted him as New Castile. Almagro

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received from Pizarro, besides the promised position of deputy governor, authority over two hundred miles of territory south of Pizarro's domains, which had yet to be conquered, described in the imperial records as New Toledo. The news of these events reached Peru before Fernando returned.

Almagro had no sooner received the news that independent authority had been granted to him over the southern lands that might be acquired than he asserted that Cuzco, the Inca's residence, lay within the territory assigned him, and that Pizarro must give it up. Pizarro, however, who was determined to extend his rule as far as possible, encouraged by the favors shown him by the Emperor, stoutly maintained the contrary. The two men, both jealous and ambitious, angrily maintained their positions. Both had adherents and the time seemed to be at hand for the agreeable spectacle to the Peruvians of an unnatural civil strife among the Spaniards. Fortunately each of the two leaders had too high an opinion of the importance of the other not to wish for some peaceful settlement. Pizarro made friendly proposals, and Almagro was misled by his own loyalty to entertain them. They were as follows: Almagro should attempt the conquest of Chili, or New Toledo. If he found that this territory was not as great or rich as they expected, Pizarro would give up a part of Peru. Although Almagro had repeatedly experienced the unreliability of Pizarro's promises he decided once more

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to trust him. They sealed the new compact in the same manner as they had their original one, and Almagro set out on his expedition to Chili.

The force which he led was of proportionate importance to the magnitude of his undertaking. Nearly six hundred Europeans were enrolled under his banners, and Manco, the Inca, supported him with an army of fifteen thousand Peruvians. From Cuzco to Chili there were two routes. The one was level and easily passable, running along the flat coast, and was the longer. The other, which was much shorter, led through the rough and high mountain region separating Peru and Chili. On account of the severe cold and the great quantity of snow covering the route it was only passable in the middle of summer and even then with great difficulty. The Peruvians advised them to take the longer and more comfortable route, but their advice was rejected. Almagro and his companions considered themselves so immune to all vicissitudes of weather that the dreadful description of the hardships they must encounter not only made no impression upon them, but they foolishly resolved to show the Peruvians that nothing was impossible to Europeans. So they took the mountain route. Their temerity cost them dearly. The farther they penetrated the inhospitable region, the more they found the statements of the Peruvians confirmed, and the more unendurable became their condition. The cold was so intense that constant

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activity alone kept them from freezing. Their strength failed them also, for in this region, covered with eternal snow, there was no subsistence. In addition to these troubles they were exposed to attack from native mountaineers, whose extraordinary courage, as well as extraordinary skill with the bow, harassed them not a little.

Suffering such hardships, Almagro's army began to dwindle away. Several Spaniards and still more of the Peruvians froze their feet and died, leaning against trees or rocks, like so many statues. Some of the historians say that five months after this their bodies were found in the same position, holding in stiffened hands the bridles of their frozen horses. At last, after indescribable suffering, they were fortunate enough to reach the fertile and pleasant plains of Chili. The flat part of this country, which stretches along the coast, north and south, satisfied their expectations. The climate was one of the mildest and most agreeable in the world. One would expect it to be very hot as Chili lies near the equator, but the heat is tempered by the snows of the Cordilleras on the one hand and the Southern Ocean on the other. All kinds of shrubs and plants grow in its fertile soil. In a word, this fortunate land not only enjoys the advantages of Quito but is free from the storms and earthquakes which make Quito such an undesirable place of residence. The most important part of the trade between the two countries, Peru and Chili, is carried

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on between Lima and Santiago by the means of vessels. At the mouths of the rivers upon which these two cities are situated are two smaller cities, Callao and Valparaiso, which are the ports for Lima and Santiago.

Chapter XIII

The Traitor Felipillo is Quartered — Manco Besieges Cuzco and Lima at the Same Time — The Spaniards in Sore Straits — Almagro Returns from Chili, Defeats the Inca, and Captures Cuzco

ALMAGRO at last safely reached Chili and found it a magnificent country, but he discovered at the same time that the people were entirely different from the patient and good-natured Peruvians. It was a warlike nation, in no way disposed to submit to the yoke of servitude. They were strong, bold, free men, who, although they were surprised at the sight of a European army and at the effect of fire-arms, still were not so overcome with astonishment that they could not offer resistance to the stranger robbers. Although they got the worst of it in every encounter, they were not intimidated but rallied again and again and stoutly defended every foot of land they possessed. This and another disagreeable occurrence caused Almagro to abandon the conquest of the country and return to Peru.

The shameless Felipillo organized a conspiracy in the army against Almagro's life for which he paid the penalty he had so long deserved. When he found that his treachery was known, he attempted

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to escape. He was arrested, however, and as his villainy was proven he was condemned to be quartered, and the terrible punishment was inflicted.

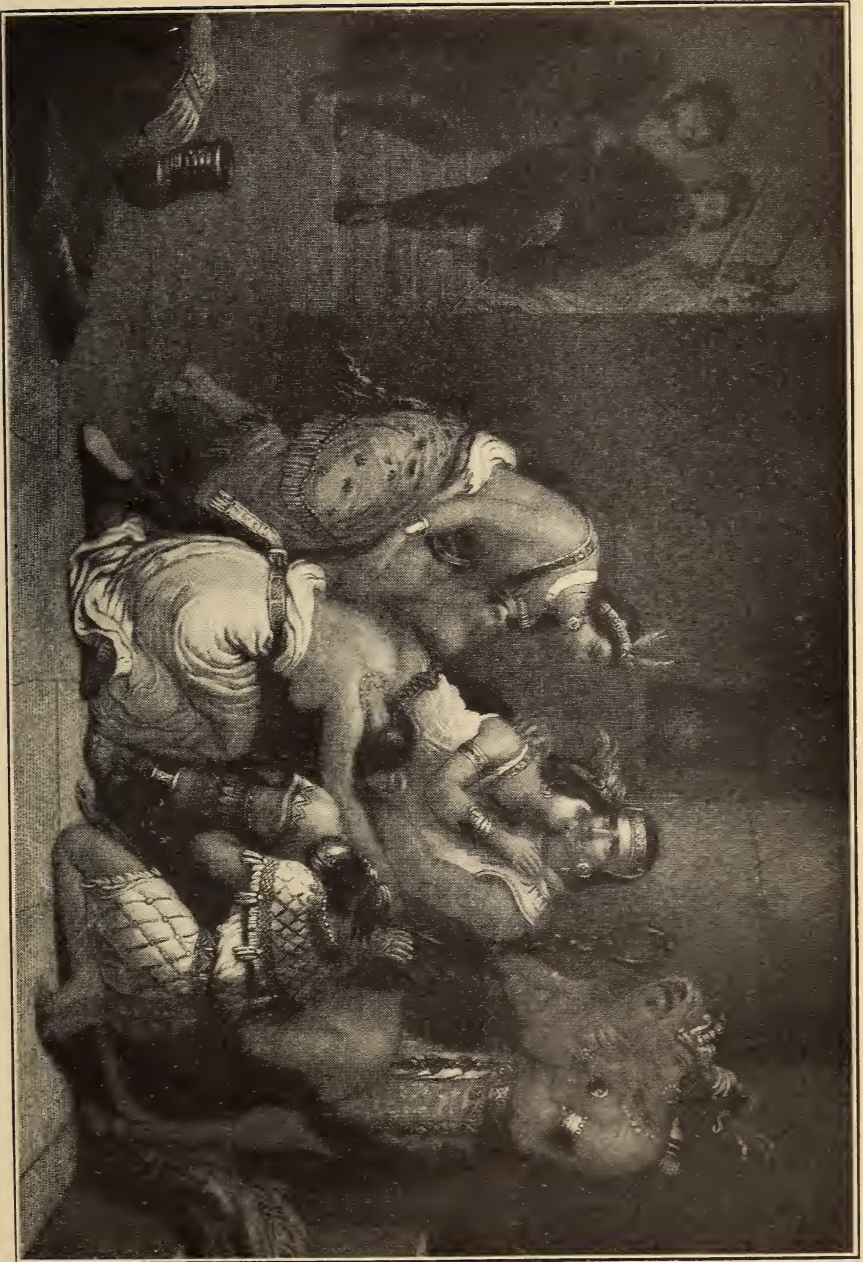
About the time that this conspiracy was discovered and punished, news came of another disquieting event in Peru which hastened Almagro's return. It was reported that the country was in disorder, owing to an uprising incited by Manco, who had induced his people to take up arms and attempt to throw off the Spanish yoke. After Almagro's withdrawal from Cuzco, the Inca had been arrested and fettered upon the charge of disloyalty. Pizarro at the time had gone to the new city of Lima with a part of his troops. Another part of them had been despatched under various leaders to places which had not yet been completely subjected. A few remained in Cuzco under command of his brothers, Juan and Gonzalo. Although the poor Inca was most carefully guarded by them he found means for acquainting some of the head men of the nation with the deplorable situation in which he was placed. They already knew of the calamities of the fatherland, but some were at one place and others at another, fugitives in the mountains, so that they had no opportunity to communicate with each other and settle upon some commander under whose banners they could unite.

Fernando Pizarro in the meantime returned from Spain and joined his brothers, Juan and Gonzalo, in Cuzco. He, the gentlest and most com-

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passionate of the brothers, took the fate of the unfortunate Manco greatly to heart and alleviated his condition all he could. The Inca therefore put great reliance in him and at last ventured to ask permission to attend an annual festival of his people some miles distant from Cuzco. Fernando gave his consent, and the Inca was released from his prison. Hardly had the report of his release been spread abroad, before the head men of the nation, upon the pretext of celebrating the festival, hastily gathered together from every part of the country and selected a leader. The war flag was unfurled, and in an incredibly short time all Peru was under arms. A considerable part of the Spaniards, who in fancied security were scattered about the country either singly or in small bands, were attacked and slain. Peruvian warriors flocked in from all sides, and in a short time Manco found himself at the head of an army so mighty that, if we may credit the historians, he advanced upon Cuzco with two hundred thousand men, and sent a still larger force to Lima, so as to attack the two capitals at the same time.

The three Pizarros in command at Cuzco, when the city was so suddenly invested by Manco's immense army, had not over one hundred and seventy men. The enemy outnumbered them over a thousand to one. One of the brothers, Juan, was killed in the very first attack by a stone's cast. He was not only a very brave but a very excellent man and under-



THE INCA RECEIVING THE LAST EMBRACES OF HIS FAMILY

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stood best of all the Spaniards how to treat the Peruvians so as to secure their good-will and confidence. His death therefore grieved not only his brothers but all the Spanish army, for they felt they had lost one of their best leaders. Both the capitals, Cuzco and Lima, were now shut in on every side, and both the Spanish forces found themselves similarly situated and confronted by the same danger, with no possibility of communicating with or rendering assistance to each other. There was no hope of rescue left. The number of Spaniards killed in various parts of the country at the outbreak of hostilities was about six hundred. The Peruvians secured their weapons and horses and made use of them to the best of their ability after the manner in which they had seen them employed by the Europeans. They formed in close ranks, used the spears, swords, and shields like the Spaniards, and even ventured to fire the muskets. The Inca and his officers rode the horses. Although it was a very crude imitation of European war-making, still it greatly increased the advantage the Peruvians possessed because of the immense number of their warriors.

The situation of the Europeans grew more desperate daily. The Inca captured one section of the city and invested the two Pizarros so closely in their quarters that they knew nothing of what was going on. Their uncertainty as to the fate of their brothers in Lima made their situation still more

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wretched, for their attempts to get news from them were fruitless, all the roads between Lima and Cuzco being carefully guarded. The governor's situation in the meantime was much more favorable than that of his brothers, for the proximity of the sea gave him the advantage of reinforcements brought from time to time in transports from Panama. To compel his men to face the alternative of victory or death he sent all the vessels back so that no possibility of escape remained. At the same time, as fast as his own force was increased, he sent small detachments, led by able commanders, to the help of his brothers in Cuzco. But a sad fate overtook some of them. Don Diego Pizarro, his cousin, who was despatched with seventy cavalymen, was attacked in a narrow pass, and all were killed. Gonzales von Tavic, another officer, who had eighty men under him, met with a like fate. Two more leaders and their men also were lost, making in all over three hundred Spaniards, not one of whom escaped to tell the story of the others' fate.

At last the governor was enabled to meet his enemies in the open field, having received a strong reinforcement headed by one Alphonso de Alvarado, brother of the well-known leader whom we have already met. He at once made use of his advantage, attacked the countless swarm of Peruvians, and drove them into the mountains. Now he could breathe more freely, for his army was no longer needed in that region and the way was open to go to

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the relief of his brothers whose fate was still a mystery. Alvarado, who had rescued him, came to his help with three hundred men, soon joined by two hundred more, and marched upon Cuzco. Before reaching the city, however, an unexpected event changed the situation there. Almagro returned from Chili and marched to Cuzco without knowing what had happened there. He had with him the imperial patent which Fernando had brought, conferring upon him authority over all the southern territory outside of Pizarro's domain. The more he studied the contents of this document, the more firmly he was convinced that it was the Emperor's intention to give Cuzco to him and not to Pizarro. Therefore he resolved to take possession of it at once. He was not a little astonished to find, as he approached it, that one part of the city had been burned, that another was occupied by Manco, and that the third was still held by Pizarro, who was in imminent danger of having his defences carried by storm. As the exact situation, however, was not fully known to him, he advanced cautiously to gain the needed information. His movements were known in Cuzco, but neither the Peruvians nor the Spaniards were certain whether he came as a friend or an enemy. Both sides made advances to secure his friendship and assistance. The Inca recognized how valuable these Europeans would be to him as allies, and the Pizarros knew they were lost if he joined their enemies. The demands which he made,

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however, were as unsatisfactory to the one side as to the other. He insisted that his right should be acknowledged in Cuzco and that the city should be given up to him, but his demand was opposed by the Inca even more strenuously than by the Pizarros. When Manco at last realized that Almagro could not be induced to withdraw it, he decided to break off the fruitless negotiations and decide the matter by the sword. He offered battle to Almagro with the usual result. European skill was superior to numbers. Manco was defeated and was forced to raise the siege of Cuzco and fly for safety to the mountains. Now it became a contest between Spaniards. Almagro adhered to his demand and the Pizarros to their refusal. In the meantime Almagro reached the gates of Cuzco, and, as his magnanimous, straightforward manner in comparison with the cunning of the Pizarros greatly endeared him to the common soldiers, a part of the garrison deserted to him and placed him in a position to make himself master of the city by a night attack. This was accomplished so quietly and boldly that the Pizarros were taken unawares and suddenly found Almagro and his men before their defences and blocking their exit. The city was captured with hardly a blow, and the Pizarros, hemmed in, were called upon to surrender. Courageously seeking to achieve the impossible, they fought so long and stubbornly that at last their strength was exhausted and they were forced to

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surrender. They were made unconditional prisoners and placed under strong guard.

Thus matters stood in Cuzco when Alvarado, who knew nothing of the circumstances, arrived with his army in the neighborhood of the capital. He had only to cross a river to be there, but to his great surprise he found the opposite banks occupied by Spaniards, ready to receive him as an enemy. He could not comprehend what it all meant until he was informed by Almagro, who was anxious to secure his favor, of what had taken place in the city. He offered gifts and inducements of every kind to secure his service and made him alluring promises of gain if he would desert Pizarro, but Alvarado was steadfast in his loyalty and could not be moved. There was an officer in Alvarado's army who was induced, either by his greed or by his hatred of the Pizarros, to devise a plot for the betrayal of the leader, and he also prevailed upon some of his companions to participate in the shameful act. Almagro, who had been informed of this, quietly made his preparations, and, before Alvarado was aware of it, a hostile army was in his camp and he was made prisoner. The conspirators had stolen his own and his truest friends' arms on the previous evening so that they could not offer the slightest resistance. The larger number of his force were conspirators and compelled the rest to yield. All laid down their arms and were taken to Cuzco by Almagro.

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Almagro now counselled with his friends as to the disposal of the prisoners. The boldest and most unfeeling of them were unanimously of opinion that the Pizarros, Alvarado, and some of the staunchest adherents of the governor should be taken to the place of execution at once. Almagro listened to them, acknowledged they were right, but, greatly to his honor be it said, declined to follow their advice. He even went further. Although it was clearly apparent that, if he now marched with his victorious army to Lima, he could easily overpower the governor's forces, and, although it was still more apparent that this dispute had now become so bitter that there was no other settlement than the sword, yet he would not move a step except in self-defence, so that he should not be responsible for the bloodshed of civil strife. Having made this decision, he returned to Cuzco to await the action of the governor.

Chapter XIV

*Pizarro and Almagro Enemies — Negotiations Fail —
Spaniards Fight Spaniards Near Cuzco — Pizarro is
Victorious — Almagro Taken Prisoner*

NO news had yet reached Pizarro of the events which had happened at Cuzco, but when it did come, it was like one thunder-clap after another. The death of his brother Juan, the return of Almagro, the imprisonment of his two other brothers, the loss of the capital, the defeat and imprisonment of his loyal friend Alvarado — all these tragic occurrences, any one of which would have unnerved a man of less firmness, were announced to him at once. But these manifold calamities only increased his courage. He knew Almagro's sense of honor and his own crafty skill, and upon these he built hopes of a speedy betterment of the situation. As he was awaiting a new and strong reinforcement from Panama, he made his plans to gain time and keep his rival inactive until he was a match for him and perhaps his superior. It was easy for this conscienceless man to assume a mask for any occasion, and Almagro's credulity also helped him. He also pretended to be desirous of ending all hostility by some favorable agreement,

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and anxious to open negotiations with him. These were protracted by him so as to gain time to carry out his purpose, and many months passed without any action on Almagro's part.

In the meantime Pizarro received strong reinforcements of men and material and was ready to throw off the mask and act more boldly, when good luck came to his assistance in an unexpected manner. His brother Gonzalo and Alvarado not only managed to escape but bribed sixty troopers to go with them. Pizarro's delight at this windfall was as great as Almagro's chagrin at the escape of the two men whose services would be so valuable to his rival. One of Pizarro's brothers, however, Fernando, still remained a prisoner. He must be freed before Pizarro could venture to disclose his real intentions. But how could he secure his freedom, especially as he would be doubly guarded after the escape of Gonzalo and Alvarado? To effect this, he devised a new and treacherous scheme and proposed that the differences existing between them should be submitted to the decision of the Emperor. As Almagro was satisfied with this plan, the cunning negotiator went a step further and requested Almagro to release his brother and allow him to go to Spain, deputed by both sides to present the case to the Emperor. The plot succeeded. Fernando was released and the treacherous knave threw off his mask. To Almagro's astonishment, he boldly declared that this matter

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must now be settled not by words but by the sword.

Pizarro had by this time a formidable army, including two full companies of musketeers, an unusual thing in America, for at that time fire-arms were so scarce that only a few could be provided with them. As he saw that his brothers burned with hatred toward Almagro and were eager to wipe out the shame of their imprisonment in the blood of the enemy, he gave them command of the larger part of the army and empowered them to inaugurate the bloody tragedy of civil war. Their road led across a spur of the Andes. It would have been easy for Almagro to have destroyed Pizarro's army with a handful of men, if he had attacked it in the narrow passes, especially as many of Pizarro's men, who had not been acclimated, were overcome by an ailment resembling seasickness. But he did not do it. He deemed it better for two reasons to await the enemy on the plains at Cuzco: One was that he wished to avoid in every way the responsibility of beginning this civil strife, and the other was that he might have room for the movements of his cavalry, in which he was superior to the enemy. He also strengthened the city as well as he could and disposed his army in as advantageous positions as possible, but unfortunately he was not able to take command in person. His advanced age and his many hardships had so weakened him that he was no longer strong on his

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feet. This obliged him to entrust the command to Orgognez, a man who was not lacking in courage and devotion to his commander but without that influence and power over the soldiers which the loved and honored Almagro possessed.

The decisive day was quickly at hand. The Pizarros safely crossed the mountains and advanced upon the plains of Cuzco. Both armies confronted each other, ready for battle. The imperial banners waved on each side. The dreadful spectacle, about to occur, had attracted an incredible multitude of the natives, who stood upon the adjacent heights and rejoiced at the sight of their tyrants ready to tear each other to pieces. The old and feeble Almagro was taken to an eminence from which he could survey the battlefield, a happy or an unhappy witness of the fortunate or unfortunate outcome of the struggle. The sun rose brilliantly, as always in that beautiful region, on Saturday, the twenty-sixth of April, 1538, but long before its beam illuminated the plain Fernando Pizarro's trumpets had called his men to arms. His forces were about seven hundred strong. After mass had been read, Fernando made a short appeal to his men, in which he referred to the personal injuries he and his family had suffered at the hands of Almagro, which reminded the old soldiers of the loss of Cuzco and brought a blush of shame to their cheeks. His appeal was received with enthusiasm and then the struggle began. It was apparently an uncertain

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battle, for it was not a contest between white men and defenceless Indians but between Spaniards and Spaniards, with the inspiring battle cry on either side of "El Rey y Almagro," or "El Rey y Pizarro."

Both sides fought with a courage worthy of the highest admiration if it had not been inspired by ambition and the spirit of revenge. The front ranks of Orgognez's army at the beginning suffered so heavily that they soon lost their spirit and did not obey the orders of their commander. From that moment he recognized that all was lost and resolved he would not survive his own and his master's misfortune. In the anguish of despair he cried out to his men, "By the Almighty, I will do my duty and seek death. He who will, let him follow me." Thereupon he fiercely charged the enemy and a terrible hand to hand battle ensued. Orgognez was wounded in the head, and his helmet was shattered by shot, but he did not cease fighting. Observing an attendant of Fernando Pizarro, who was richly clad, and mistaking him for his master, he rushed at him and pierced him with his lance, but he was hemmed in by so many of the enemy that his brave defence of himself was of no avail. His opponents, who were not utterly destitute of humanity, attempted to take him prisoner, but after they had succeeded, a soldier who had some private grievance against him killed the defenceless man with a terrible blow upon the head. Similarly

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brutal acts occurred in other cases, although Fernando Pizarro and his leaders, as soon as the fortune of battle was decided, made all possible effort to check bloodshed.

The unfortunate Almagro had to stand by helplessly and witness the defeat of his army. Sorrow and anger alternately filled the breast of the old warrior, both at his own inability to do anything and at the fruitless effort of his men. When at last he saw that all was lost, he attempted to escape, but it was too late. He was overtaken and fell into the enemy's hand.

Chapter XV

Almagro is Beheaded in the Market-place of Cuzco — Gonzalo Pizarro's Expedition to the Amazon River

THE city of Cuzco surrendered to the victors without offering resistance. Almagro was placed in chains and closely guarded as a state prisoner. What disposition was to be made of him remained a secret for several months. In the meantime the Pizarros endeavored to remove all those who sympathized with Almagro from the city and to persuade his most active followers to join an expedition to distant regions which had not yet come under Spanish subjection. All the enterprising leaders of the Almagro faction seized upon this opportunity to free themselves from a life of inactivity and to forsake the place where their commander was in chains with no possible hope of escape. Thus gradually the city was vacated by those whose presence thus far had compelled the Pizarros to keep their dastardly purpose a secret. These having been removed, their hands were free. They proceeded at once to the accomplishment of their infamous design, and to give this cruelty an appearance of justice a tribunal was organized to pass sentence upon the unfortunate old man. He

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was accused of high treason, or, what amounts to the same thing, an outbreak against the lawful authority of the country. He was further accused of having resisted the imperial decree and invaded the rights of the governor, although the wishes of the Emperor were not yet fully known, and the limits of Pizarro's rule were not yet fixed. In vain Almagro protested that he had no intention to encroach upon the rights of his former associate and that he had only occupied Cuzco because he thought it was within the boundaries established by the patent as part of his territory. They gave his reply no consideration but sentenced him to death.

Almagro upon a thousand occasions had shown himself a man of extraordinary courage and did not know what it was to be afraid of death, and yet the news of the death sentence filled him with terror. The thought that he must die at the hand of the headsman, like a common malefactor, made him shudder, and so humiliated his once resolute spirit that he made piteous supplications, hoping to move the hard hearts of his cruel victors to compassion. He reminded them of the sacred league of friendship which their brother had made with him and of the kind treatment which they had received when they were prisoners. He tearfully besought them to pity his age and his weakness and to permit him to devote the rest of his little remnant of life to repentance for his sins and to preparation for the other life. Many of the hardened soldiers could

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not restrain their tears as they listened to the old man's appeals, but the iron hearts of the Pizarros remained unmoved. They even derided his weakness in begging for his life and bade him summon up all his courage and face death with the composure of a Christian and the courage of a brave nobleman.

The dejected Almagro several times endeavored to move the hearts of his murderers to compassion, but when he discovered it was useless and that the unjust sentence was irrevocable, he recovered his customary dignity and said with noble courage: "Take my life and satiate your cruelty in my blood." Thereupon he made his will with the utmost composure, naming the Emperor and his son as his heirs. Immediately afterwards, being then in the sixty-fifth year of his age, he was beheaded publicly in the market-place of Cuzco. Among those who were pained by the death of Almagro none took it more to heart than a certain Diego de Alvarado, a meritorious officer who had been influential in securing the release of Fernando Pizarro from his imprisonment. He felt all the more sorrowful over the cruel fate of his friend because he realized that by his own well-meant but unfortunate advice he had assisted in this calamity. He therefore resolved to risk everything in an effort to avenge his friend's murder. With this object in view he improved the earliest opportunity to go to Spain. As soon as he arrived he presented himself at Court and made

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such a detailed report of the treachery and cruelty of the Pizarros that the Emperor was shocked. Not satisfied with this, he also asked permission to make good his accusation, after the custom of that time, with his sword, and to challenge Francisco Pizarro to combat as the real author of the tragedy which had occurred. The Emperor was in doubt how to decide, and before he reached a conclusion, the honorable Alvarado died, and so suddenly that there were suspicions that he had been poisoned by Pizarro's friends.

Alvarado's accusations made a deep impression upon the Emperor and his ministers, but they knew not how to act, for Pizarro had so firmly established his power in the region conquered by him that it seemed very hazardous to use force against him. In the meantime they took counsel over the matter and decided to summon Fernando Pizarro to Spain to give an account of his own and his brother's administrations. Fernando sailed from Lima to Spain in the Summer of 1539. He appeared at Court with almost regal pomp, denied the accusations which had been made, and sought to justify the execution of Almagro upon the ground that he had begun the civil war and therefore was treated as a rebel. Although the Court hardly felt competent to decide which party was the more responsible, it appeared certain that the Pizarros in any event had conducted themselves autocratically and tyrannically. Fernando was sent to prison and remained

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there over twenty years. He was released in 1560, an aged man, broken in health and spirit, more an object for pity than anger. And yet he bore his long imprisonment with a courage which would have been worthy of admiration had it been inspired by a worthy cause. He saw his brothers and relatives, all upon whom he could depend, gradually removed, his property confiscated in part, his fame tarnished, his career untimely closed, himself ostracized in his fatherland, and yet he bore it all with the steadfastness of a bold spirit. Although he was very old when he was released, he lived to the great age of a hundred years. He had been well educated for those times, was quick of apprehension, resolute in action, courageous and yet cautious, and his opinions were wise and circumspect, but his ambition and covetousness were insatiable. He was arrogant and had a vindictive disposition which led to his own ruin, for the hour of his revenge against Almagro was the hour of his own downfall.

Francisco Pizarro himself had no fears, and the Spanish Court found it difficult to bring him to account. At the same time the Emperor desired to obtain exact information about affairs in Peru as well as to establish a lawful and orderly administration there. It was decided, therefore, to send a commission to make a careful investigation and then organize a stable government in this great empire in the name of the Emperor. Such an

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important mission needed a man of great wisdom and uprightness, and the man fortunately was found in the person of Baca de Castro, who united uncommon ability with a high degree of administrative talent. Pizarro in the meantime, after his enemies were out of the way, ruled like a despot and distributed lands and honors arbitrarily. In this he showed neither wisdom nor fairness. The most pleasant, fruitful, and populous districts were appropriated by himself, his brothers, and favorites. The rest had to be satisfied with the poorer ones. The most deserving and bravest men on Almagro's side were entirely overlooked and gradually were reduced to want. History has preserved an anecdote which deserves relating. Twelve noblemen, who had served under Almagro and filled important positions, lived together in the same house and were in such great need that they had but one coat among them, which each one wore when he went out. The other eleven at such times had to remain at home for lack of clothing. Pizarro was so blind or foolhardy that he either did not observe or did not care for the danger to which he was exposed in allowing men who had performed distinguished service to live in such poverty. He continued his bestowal of favors upon his favorites and disregarded the murmuring occasioned thereby. Among the discontented was Benalcazar, the conqueror of Quito, who had been dispossessed of his province in favor of Pizarro's brother Gonzalo. To this

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same Gonzalo was given command of an expedition which promised both fame and profit.

According to the universal testimony of the Peruvians, on the other side of the Andes to the eastward there was a region very rich in cinnamon and other spices. It seemed worth while to discover it. Gonzalo was given the right to march to the Spice-land and, later, possession of it. Taking command of an army of three hundred and forty European soldiers, mostly cavalry, and of four thousand Peruvians, the expedition started. Gonzalo took a southeasterly direction from Quito, following the course of the Napo River, which empties into the great Marañon or Amazon, one of the largest and most important rivers in the world, flowing across almost the whole of South America, east and west, its mighty flood uniting with the Atlantic Ocean.

The first obstacle which confronted Gonzalo was the high snowy Cordilleras of the Andes, but even before he reached them all nature seemed in conspiracy against his expedition. During dreadful thunder-storms and tempests a terrible earthquake occurred. The earth was rent in various places, and houses and trees were swallowed up. A river flowing by the Spanish camps left its bed and overflowed the plains so swiftly that the Spaniards barely had time to flee to the neighboring mountains. Then still another danger menaced them, not less frightful, for it appeared to them that they had been suddenly transplanted to the arctic regions. Many of the

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Peruvians accompanying them as well as Spaniards succumbed to the cold. The rest owed their safety only to their stronger constitutions and constant activity. They finally crossed the Andes, but even then their troubles were not ended. The widely stretching level country in some places was absolutely desolate and in others was peopled by savages, besides being destitute of subsistence. Every step they took they had either to wade morasses or cut their way through thick bushes and wellnigh impassable forests. Then came a continuous rain, lasting over two months, during which time the adventurers never had dry clothes. At Napo, Gonzalo built a barge to be used for transportation whenever it became necessary, as well as for carrying supplies and baggage. The work cost the Spaniards not a little trouble as they were almost destitute of ship timber as well as iron. They were obliged to use the shoes of the horses as material for nails and bolts, and in the place of pitch they were forced to use a kind of resin from the trees. At last, however, the barge was finished, and Gonzalo placed an officer next in command to him, named Orellana, in charge of it. He ordered him to sail down the stream with fifty soldiers in search of provisions and named a certain spot where he was to await him and the army. Hardly, however, was Orellana out of sight of his leader when he conceived the ambitious project of cutting loose from all authority and making a most audacious venture. He decided not

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to wait at the appointed place but to follow the course of the river in his fragile boat until he reached the ocean. It was a gigantic undertaking and one which would have staggered him had he known that the ocean was nearly two thousand miles away.

Orellana first disclosed his purpose when he reached the designated spot where he was to await the army, at the mouth of the Napo River, where it empties into the Amazon. All his companions but one were ready to accompany him. That one had the courage to oppose Orellana's treacherous purpose and fell a victim to his own loyalty, for Orellana left him to perish in the wilderness and continued on his way. The dangers and obstacles which he met on this long journey are almost indescribable. He soon reached a desolate country where he had to fight with savages to get subsistence. He was also attacked by countless canoes on the river while he and his fifty men had scarcely room to move in the narrow limits. After seven long months of struggle with hunger and dangers of every kind he reached the mouth of the river only to encounter the greatest danger of all, for he now had to put out to sea in his wretched craft to reach an island where there was a Spanish settlement. After a journey of many miles he at last safely reached the Island of Trinidad, off the coast of Tierra Firme, or the Spanish Main.

From thence he went to Spain where the accounts of his unprecedented adventures created universal

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amazement. Not content with relating what he had actually seen, he ornamented his story with romances which were believed for a long time but later turned out to be pure inventions. For instance, he asserted that he had visited some regions where gold and precious stones were as common as ordinary stones in Spain, and others whose inhabitants were mighty female warriors. Hence it came that the great country through which the Marañon flows was called Amazon Land, and the river itself the Amazon. One part of this region was considered as the auriferous Utopia and was called El Dorado.

Chapter XVI

*Conspiracy of Almagro's Followers against Pizarro —
Assassination of Pizarro — His Character*

GONZALO PIZARRO expected to find Orellana and his fifty men at the junction of the Napo and Marañon and likewise a supply of provisions, but to his great surprise found neither barge, provisions, nor soldiers. Still he hoped that perhaps some accident had forced Orellana to advance farther on and decided to march along the bank of the river until he found him. How great was his amazement when he finally realized his treachery! They were in a desperate condition. Weakened by hunger and hardships they found themselves in a desolate waste which produced nothing that could strengthen them. Their numbers had been reduced by death and Orellana's withdrawal, and their baggage was on his barge. In these desperate circumstances they unanimously demanded immediate return, and Pizarro was forced to yield.

They were now over two hundred miles distant from Quito and it was more than likely that most of them would be unable to bear the hardships of that long march again. Nevertheless it had to be made. With the hope of finding a less difficult route they ven-

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tured into an unknown region with no other guide than the sun. The new route proved worse than the first one, and the country through which they passed was destitute of sustenance. They were forced to kill and eat their horses and dogs. They chewed leaves, eagerly ate noxious insects, and at last gnawed the leather of their saddles and sword-belts. Their garments were torn to pieces by briars and storms. Two hundred Spaniards and four thousand Peruvians fell victims of these calamities. The rest, who were so emaciated that they looked like skeletons, continued the march to Quito, fifty miles away. But their strength was so exhausted that they would all have perished had not provisions been sent to them from Quito. At sight of food they were so delighted that they threw themselves upon the earth and kissed the ground. Their eagerness for food would have been fatal had it not been dealt out to them in small portions for several days. Some horses and clothes also had been sent, but, as they were not sufficient for all, Gonzalo and his officers generously made no claim and, naked as they were, they marched on foot to Quito. When they at last arrived, their most intimate friends had difficulty in recognizing them, so greatly had they changed. Every one hastened to seek rest, but Gonzalo had no chance to think of rest, for news reached him immediately upon his arrival which alarmed him more than all his previous troubles.

At the time of his execution Almagro appointed

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his son as his successor in authority. At that time, youth and inexperience so unfitted him to be a leader in such a difficult situation that he was a mere plaything in others' hands. His most distinguished counsellor, however, was Juan de Herrada, a knight of noble family who had entered the service as a common soldier and gradually had risen to the highest position in the army. Under the guidance of this meritorious nobleman the young Almagro had greatly improved in body and mind. He had grown handsome and uncommonly active, and was skilled in physical exercises and other acquirements. His brave father's spirit inspired him, and it was soon apparent that he was destined to play an important part in Peruvian affairs. This convinced Pizarro that he must suppress this young rising spirit before his power grew dangerous. He therefore imprisoned him and the knight Herrada for a long time and only released them upon the condition that Almagro should live at Lima under surveillance. In this way he hoped to prevent a possible uprising. But he was mistaken. The residence of the young Almagro soon became the resort of the old friends and adherents of his father, who at that time were in a wretched plight and burned with a desire to revenge themselves upon the tyrant who had stripped them of their honors and possessions. They therefore rallied around Almagro and devised means of revenge and of bettering their conditions. As the result of their delibera-

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tions they determined to throw off the yoke of the oppressor and destroy the tyrant. The absence of the governor's two brothers seemed to offer the opportunity they desired.

In the meantime the friends of the governor began to regard the frequent meetings of these people with suspicion. They confided their misgivings to him and warned him to be on his guard, but he was so accustomed to pay no heed even to great and visible dangers that he did not take their warnings to heart. "Do not be concerned about my life," was his reply. "The power which I have of cutting off others' heads makes my own safer." One day, when he was walking in the garden, Herrada, who had been commissioned by the conspirators to observe his frame of mind, presented himself. Pizarro was engaged in plucking lemons and as his enemy approached him he handed him some, saying they were the first they had had in this new city. Herrada assumed a troubled expression and intimated he had heard that Pizarro contemplated making way with Almagro and his unfortunate friends. The governor assured him such a thought had never entered his head although he had been warned against these people because they had designs against his own life. Herrada, on his part, assured him these reports were malicious inventions, and to make his assurances trustworthy he begged the governor to allow him and Almagro to leave Lima. Pizarro refused the request and

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dismissed the knight with the promise that he would furnish him with everything he needed. Herrada kissed his hand with a show of reverence which confirmed the governor in the belief that he had nothing to fear from these people. Herrada had accomplished his purpose. The conspirators now knew that the governor had no suspicions. This was sufficient, and the next Sunday was fixed upon for their revengeful purpose.

Saturday evening came and Pizarro still had no suspicions. At this time an event occurred which must have opened his eyes and prepared him for the attack of his enemies if he had not been foolhardy to the verge of madness. One of the conspirators, as the hour approached, was conscience-smitten, and rushed to the governor to inform him of the plot. Pizarro listened to his statement with some interest, but a moment afterward lapsed into his usual contempt of danger and foolish security. He informed the conspirator he did not believe his story and dismissed him. The stillness of the night brought reflection. He began to realize that the danger against which he had been warned might be real and that it would be prudent to be cautious. His friends had long advised him to have a body-guard, but, as he had received news that an accredited representative of the Emperor, clothed with full power, was coming from Spain, he feared that a body-guard might be taken as a sign that he was afraid of this representative. He decided, however,

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to be prudent and remain at home on the following day. Instead of going to church as usual, he had mass said in his apartment. Toward noon several of his officers who were accustomed to dine with him arrived. This was the time which the conspirators had chosen for his murder, as he usually rested and slept during the hot mid-day hours.

Herrada suddenly rushed at the head of eighteen men, with drawn sword, and armed from head to foot, to Almagro's house, shouting as they entered the street, "Long live the King! Death to the tyrant." With these words, as a signal to all the conspirators scattered about the city, they ran to the governor's palace. Pizarro was at the table conversing with some of his friends, most of his guests having betaken themselves to rest. The conspirators luckily crossed the courtyard and entered the palace without being observed. Herrada took the precaution to leave one of his companions at the gate to shout to those passing by, "The tyrant is dead." The friends of the governor who might be coming to his rescue would thus be frightened back, thinking they had come too late.

The conspirators advanced to the stairs leading to Pizarro's apartment without being observed. A page noticed them at last and rushed into the room giving the alarm. Pizarro, who never quailed at any danger, did not display the least fear. He sprang up and with resolute voice commanded one of his officers to bolt the door until he had time to arm

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himself, but the officer unfortunately lost his presence of mind. Instead of doing as he was bidden he left the room and went to the stairs and asked the advancing conspirators the meaning of the outbreak and what they were intending to do. His only reply was a blow which felled him to the floor, and the conspirators rushed into the room.

Pizarro had retired to an anteroom to put on his armor. Alcántara, two friends, and as many pages went with him. All the others jumped from the windows as they saw the conspirators entering. The latter rushed into the room before Pizarro had had time to don his armor, but he seized his sword and shield, attacked the enemy with the strength of a lion, and encouraged his friends, who would rather die with him than forsake him, with the words: "Take heart, comrades! We are enough to punish these traitors for this outrage." The fight now began with indescribable fury on both sides. But the conspirators not only had the advantage of numbers but they were fully armed so that it was not easy to get at them, while the weaker party was exposed to every blow and thrust. The battle was soon decided.

Alcántara fell dead first at his brother's side. Some of the others soon followed him, and the governor who had continually parried the blows made at him gradually became so exhausted that he could hardly wield his sword. At last he received a fatal thrust in the throat and fell, dying, to the floor.

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Four of the conspirators were killed, and nearly all the others were wounded. As soon as the victim of their fury expired they ran into the streets with their bloody swords to announce to the excited city the death of the tyrant. Over two hundred sympathizers joined them and escorted the young Almagro, mounted on his horse, through the streets, shouting that this one and no other was the lawful and only governor of Peru. Brandishing their bloody weapons they shouted, "The tyrant is dead. The laws are again restored. Long live our master, the Emperor, and Almagro, the governor." Pizarro's palace and the residences of his most trusted friends were given over to pillage.

Such was the end of a man whose courage, endurance, and resolution deserve our highest admiration, but whose treachery, falseness, and cruelty must fill every honorable soul with abhorrence. He suffered a hundredfold what he had made Atahualpa, his associate Almagro, and many others suffer. His body was taken to the church by his attendants, but no one had the courage to stay with it or bury it. After some time a grave was dug in a dark corner, the funeral rites were hastily and secretly performed, and by the dim light of some wax candles the body of Pizarro in its blood-stained garments was consigned to the dust. Such was the wretched end of the conqueror of Peru, the man who only a few hours previously had ruled the country with absolute power. Smitten in bright daylight, in his

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own capital, surrounded by those who had been his companions in arms, who had shared his victories and his spoils, he died like an outcast, without one to say, "God forgive him!"

Physically Pizarro was unusually strong. No one surpassed him in courage and contempt of danger. With his armor on, he considered himself invincible, and would often advance against an enemy without waiting for his men, who had to exert themselves to overtake him. He had had almost no education and had not the address and culture which is demanded of well-bred men. He made up for this lack by keen observation of affairs and by wise deliberation, patience, and diligence. He could not write his own name, and whenever his signature was required, he would make only two strokes of the pen, between which his secretary wrote the name, Francisco Pizarro. He had naturally a great and active spirit, but it had not been well trained and disciplined. He brooded incessantly over far-reaching plans, and the greater the difficulties attending them, the more persistently he devoted himself to them. His natural tendency was toward magnanimity and generosity, but covetousness and ambition dominated these qualities. Hearing one day that an officer who was not in easy circumstances had lost a horse, he placed a gold ingot in his cloak and went to a house where he expected to meet the officer playing ball. Upon entering he did not find him and some of his friends

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invited him to join in the game. He accepted the invitation, and, without mentioning the reason for his visit, laid aside the cloak with the heavy weight of gold in it. The game lasted three hours. At last the officer came. Pizarro took him aside, presented him with the ingot, and told him that it was so heavy that he would gladly have given three times as much to get rid of it if he had come earlier. It has been specially remarked about him that he tried to conceal his good deeds and that this was the only proof that at the bottom of his heart he was really noble. Upon one of his expeditions, while crossing a river, the swift current swept away one of his Indian attendants who had shown many proofs of his loyalty and devotion. Observing his danger he swam to him, seized him by the hair, and brought him safely to the bank. The danger he encountered was greater than any soldier in his army would have dared to face. His friends protested that he ought not to have risked his life in this way, but he only replied that they did not know the value of a true servant.

His clothing was always the same and never showy. It consisted of a black cloak reaching to his ankles, white shoes, and a gray hat, and he was thus clad both as a private man and as governor. To please his friends, on Sunday he wore a state robe edged with fur given him by his friend Cortes. As soon as he came from church, however, he would take it off and remain in a shirt or waistcoat, with a

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handkerchief about his neck to wipe away perspiration, for in quiet times he spent a large part of the day playing ninepins and ball, of both of which sports he was passionately fond.

His loyalty to the Emperor, his master, was exemplary. When laying aside the fifth part of the plunder which belonged to the Emperor, he was so punctiliously conscientious that he sprang from his seat to pick up a little piece of gold which had dropped and placed it on the imperial pile. They smiled at his solicitude over such a small matter, but he was not irritated by it. "I would have picked up that little piece with my mouth," he once said, "if I had no longer the use of my hands."

These are the principal traits in the character of this extraordinary man which have been preserved for us.

Appendix

The following is a chronological statement of the principal events in the life of Pizarro:

- 1471 Birth.
- 1510 Arrives at Darien.
- 1513 With Balboa at the discovery of the Pacific Ocean.
- 1519 Settles in Panama.
- 1522 Joins with Almagro and Luque in southern expedition.
- 1524 Obligated to return to Panama.
- 1526 Second expedition — reaches equator.
- 1528 Discovers some of the Inca towns.
- 1529 Returns to Panama.
- 1529 Receives concession to conquer Peru.
- 1531 Sails for the south.
- 1532 Reaches Caxamarca — defeats the Inca.
- 1533 Treacherously murders the Inca.
- 1533 Occupies Cuzco.
- 1535 Founds city of Lima.
- 1536 War between Pizarro and Almagro — the latter defeated and beheaded.
- 1541 Pizarro murdered by Almagro's adherents.

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